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The New York Times

## Republicans in transition

8-page pullout

## The new 'Jane Eyre'

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## Beit Shean workers fight to save jobs

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Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat meets with Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu yesterday in Davos. (Avi Ahayon/GPO)

# PM, Arafat to meet Thursday at Erez

Levy: Hizbullah has received 30 Iranian plane loads of weapons since Grapes of Wrath

By DAVID MAKOVSKY and news agencies

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat agreed yesterday in Davos, Switzerland, to meet again at the Erez junction on Thursday as the first step toward launching the security-related panels reached as part of the Hebron accord.

However, it remains unclear whether Israel is sufficiently organized to have assembled negotiating teams needed for dealing with the issues at hand: the PA establishment of both an airport and seaport in Gaza; safe passage for Palestinians between Gaza and the West Bank; and release of Palestinian prisoners.

In a panel session last night at the World Economic Forum's conference,

which is bringing together more than 1,000 corporate executives to meet with world leaders, Arafat complained that Israel is hurting the PA's economy and that Israel owes the PA hundreds of millions of dollars in tax rebates.

In his remarks, Netanyahu heralded Israel as one of the great high-tech centers of the world and predicted that Israel's gross national product per capita—currently at about \$16,000—will double within the next 10 years.

Meanwhile, in a speech to Jewish activists in Paris yesterday, Foreign Minister David Levy said that an estimated 30 Iranian planes have landed at Damascus airport since the end of Operation Grapes of Wrath, with weaponry destined for Hizbullah in southern Lebanon. US officials confirm that until the military operation last spring, about three Iranian planes per

year landed in Damascus, but since the operation, this figure has grown to about three per month. The exact contents of the planes remain largely unknown, but they are thought to include Katyusha rockets and ammunition.

Netanyahu held separate meetings with Arafat and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak yesterday; as all three are attending the conference at the Swiss resort. The Mubarak-Netanyahu meeting is their first since the two met in Cairo, when their relationship subsequently deteriorated as the Egyptian leader accused Netanyahu of bad faith over the Hebron talks.

Mubarak emerged from the meeting with Netanyahu optimistic that a common basis for the resumption of talks between Israel and Syria will be established.

Continued on Page 2

## Hebron's Shuhada Street to be partially opened to Palestinians today

By JON IMMANUEL and HERB KEINON

Part of Hebron's Shuhada Street is to be opened to Palestinian emergency vehicles, municipal vehicles and taxis on a regular basis from today. This is the first stage in restoring the street to normal use.

The open area will be a one-way, 150-meter section from Gross Square, near the Abraham Avinu Quarter, to the Padisco Gas station and then past Beit Romano toward the market, the IDF said.

In further stages over the next three or four months the rest of the street will be opened to regular traffic and business. It was closed off at both ends after the massacre of 29 Moslem worshippers at the Machpela Cave three years ago generated fears of revenge attacks against settlers.

Military sources said the IDF is considering placing a protective

wall in front of Beit Hadassah and neighboring buildings to maintain their security after that section of the street is opened.

The opening of the street was agreed upon in the original 1995 Hebron guidelines which granted civil administration in all of Hebron to the Palestinian Authority. The principle was reiterated in the revised accord, after protracted talks circumscribed the PA's civil authority in order to strengthen the security of the Jews living there.

Several buildings housing Jews, including Beit Hadassah, Beit Schneerson and Beit Hasson are located on Shuhada Street, renamed King David Street under Israeli rule. The street also links the busy intersection of Bab el-Zawiye, which is under full Palestinian control in H-1, with the Jewish quarter at Abraham Avinu.

The same principle that required the reopening of Shuhada Street

was also invoked in permitting the construction of housing in the casbah area near Abraham Avinu. But last week OC Central Command Maj.-Gen. Uzi Dayan ordered Palestinian construction and renovation work on 122 houses stopped.

The PA said it would ignore the order and demanded it be revoked. "Hebron is one city. H-1 and H-2 are symbols of security control, not of division. If it was divided, then Uzi Dayan could say no one has the right to build without his permission, but it is not divided. I hope he will change his mind," said Ahmed Qurie, speaker of the Palestinian Legislative Council and chief Oslo I negotiator.

Meanwhile, Hebron settlement leaders yesterday decried the decision to open Rehov Shuhada, asking why the road is being opened now, less than a month after the Hebron redeployment agreement, when the agreement gives Israel four months to open the road gradually.

It seems the government is intent on fulfilling their obligations to Arafat, but forgetting their obligations to us, such as ensuring that we can live in security," said settlement spokesman David Wilder.

Hebron settlement head Noam Arnon said a small "token" demonstration against the opening of the road is scheduled for today, and a larger protest action, which he would not spell out, is planned for later in the week.

Hebron settlers have waged an exhaustive campaign for months against the road, saying that opening it to Palestinian traffic will present a security risk, since the road runs immediately in front of the Jewish compounds in the city, and will clog the one artery out of the city that is open to Jewish traffic.

"You can't close us into a ghetto, and then clog up our one street," Arnon said.

## Qurie: PA to build legislative council building in Al-Bireh

By JON IMMANUEL

Work is to begin this year on a new building for the Palestinian Legislative Council and \$2 million has been allotted for the project, council speaker Ahmed Qurie said yesterday.

Qurie said the building, in Al-Bireh, would not be the permanent home of the council, which would eventually move to Jerusalem.

He did not rule out the possibility that Al-Bireh, which almost touches the municipal boundaries of Jerusalem, could itself become part of a greater Jerusalem.

"That is something which can be discussed later," he said. But after the permanent status of Jerusalem is decided, he said he expected "the council will be inside the Old City."

The reasoning behind the decision to build a home for the council in Al-Bireh, which forms

one urban unit with Ramallah, is that Ramallah is "an important city also" and it needs a cultural center. When the legislative council vacates it, there will be other uses for the building, he said.

Currently, the council usually meets in Gaza or Ramallah.

In a wide-ranging interview to be published later this week, Qurie said the Palestinians have the right to declare statehood on May 5, 1999, whether or not agreement is reached. That is because the Oslo accords, which he negotiated on the Palestinian side, expressly state the final settlement talks will end by May 4, 1999, "not exceeding five years" from the implementation of the accords in Gaza and Jericho on May 4, 1994.

Qurie said that on the last day of the Oslo negotiations he insisted on inserting those words to make clear there was a firm time limit for the final-settlement talks.

## Hoover feared Einstein invented laser gun

By TOM GROSS

A newly compiled list of files and memoranda in the archives of the Federal Bureau of Investigation show just how far the fantasies of its former boss, J. Edgar Hoover, went.

The files, reported in yesterday's London Sunday Times, reveal Hoover was under the impression that Albert Einstein had invented an incredible new "laser weapon" which was so powerful that "through it 500 people could rule a nation."

The file cites an "informant's report" which says Einstein and "10 former Nazi research brain-trusters" had met in a secret location, where they donned asbestos suits and observed as a beam of light melted down a steel block "as quickly as the light switch in any home could be turned on."

"The atomic bomb," it says, "was little-boy stuff compared to this new development."

The FBI kept a huge file on Einstein which totaled 1,427 pages, according to the recently released

papers. He was reported to have used his home in Germany as a



J. Edgar Hoover

cable address for Soviet agents.

Einstein was not the only celebrity Hoover went to extraordinary lengths to keep tabs on. The files also reveal that instead of spending all their energy fighting organized crime, the FBI amassed intelligence information on such "security threats" as Pablo Picasso—who was denied a visa to enter the US after the Cuban Communist Party used one of his paintings as their emblem—and Marilyn Monroe, who it alleged held "sex parties" with then attorney-general Robert Kennedy. The FBI even intercepted a birthday greeting sent to Picasso by Charlie Chaplin.

The files also show the FBI enlisted celebrities to aid in surveillance operations. Among those who agreed to help were John Wayne, Ernest Hemingway and Elvis Presley.

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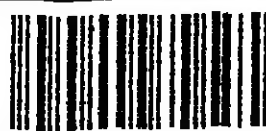
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## NEWS

in brief

### Man's death an apparent work accident

The body of an 18-year-old man was found yesterday afternoon in the courtyard of a five-story apartment building in Netanya. According to a preliminary police investigation, the death was a work accident. The man had been cleaning an apartment on the fifth floor and while washing a window slipped and fell to his death. *Itim*

### Two killed in road accidents

Two people were killed in road accidents yesterday. A 22-year-old man from the Gedera region was waiting for a bus near the Hefetz Haim junction when a car that veered out of its lane struck and killed him. The driver said she lost control of her car after she swerved and braked suddenly to avoid being hit by a truck. The driver and another person at the bus stop were injured. The truck driver who apparently caused the accident was not apprehended. A 25-year-old Hod Hasharon woman died when she lost control of her car on the Hod Hasharon-Petah Tikva road and smashed into the guard rail. *Itim*

### Pharmacies offer free diabetes test

Free, one-minute tests for diabetes will be held in all the country's pharmacies today in an effort organized by the Israel Diabetes Association and the Israel Pharmacists Association. The campaign, aimed at all adults, but especially those who are overweight, have a family history of diabetes or suffer from chronic dryness in the mouth or reduced vision. *Judy Siegel*

## IDF: Decision hasn't been made on 50th anniversary parade

By ARISH O'SULLIVAN

The Defense Ministry denied yesterday it had made any decision regarding IDF participation in a controversial and costly military parade to celebrate Israel's fiftieth independence day next year.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai's media adviser, Avi Benyahu, said that the ministry was considering how the IDF could take part in the national celebrations, including the possibility of holding a military parade, but that nothing had been finalized. The last time a military parade was held was during the May 1973 celebrations of Israel's 25th anniversary.

That parade in Jerusalem consisted of marching troops, convoys of tanks and Air Force flypasts. Just five months later, the IDF was decimated in the Yom Kippur War and the jingoistic spirit it has remained dormant until now. "The real cost for this kind of parade is some quarter of a million shekels for 50 minutes that are

gone with the wind," Eitan Haber, director-general of the Prime Minister's Office under Yitzhak Rabin, told Israel Radio.

Senior military officers have reportedly come out against the parade, saying the enormous cost would confound multi-year plans and interfere with training schedules.

However, Tourism Minister Moshe Katsav feels that a military march would constitute a concrete symbol of the part the IDF plays in the continued existence of the state. Katsav's press advisor, Motti Shilo said yesterday, Shilo said that the idea to hold a march was one of the many events suggested for the fiftieth anniversary of the State and that this suggestion, like others, was being examined.

President Ezer Weizman wouldn't comment on the topic, saying, "I am not planning the military parade or the fiftieth anniversary celebrations. There are planners, and they will decide."

Haim Shapiro and Itim contributed to this report.

## Kiryat Malachi ambulance driver dies for want of an ambulance

Shimon Ayash, of Kiryat Malachi, who provided the town's first ambulance service, died because no ambulance was available when he suffered a heart attack yesterday, his family said.

"Father died because of a foul-up," said Ayash's son David. "We plan to sue and to file a police complaint over the negligence that caused my father's death."

According to David Ayash, his father felt he was having a heart attack and asked him to call an ambulance. But when the son called MDA, he said, he was told no ambulance was available. His father's condition deteriorated, and he started having difficulty breathing.

"I took him to the MDA station in Kiryat Malachi, and though there were two ambulances there, the dispatcher told me he couldn't take him to a hospital," David Ayash said.

The dispatcher tried unsuccessfully to locate a driver. Then David Ayash grabbed the dispatcher's microphone and started shouting at the head dispatcher, in Ashdod, that he wanted an ambulance and that if anything hap-

pened to his father, "you will pay dearly."

"The Ashdod dispatcher told me there was an ambulance in Gedera and that I could take him there," he continued. "I told her that if I got to Gedera at all, it would be to shoot the MDA people there who had so little respect for human life."

Instead, two policemen showed up at the Kiryat Malachi MDA station to calm him down.

"My father is dying and they call the police," David Ayash said. An ambulance arrived only an hour later, he said. It took Shimon Ayash to Kaplan Hospital, where he died.

"My father, who was the first ambulance driver in the early years of Kiryat Malachi, who drove sick people to hospital in his own car and so saved their lives, couldn't get an ambulance at a critical moment in his own life," the son said.

An MDA spokesman said Shimon Ayash was brought to the MDA station at 7:08 p.m. and that five minutes later an ambulance that had been in Kiryat Gat arrived. The medical team began resuscitation and

# Jordan: Israel pulled out of gas venture

## Sharon denies project canceled

By DAVID HARRIS and news agencies

Israel has formally pulled out of a joint venture with Jordan to set up a \$300 million gas plant in Jordan that would have supplied the two countries with gas from the Gulf, Jordanian officials told Reuters yesterday.

"The project is non-existent ... the new Israeli government is apparently not interested in the project any longer," Energy Minister Hashem Dabbas said, adding that Israel had probably opted for other sources of gas.

However, last night National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon denied Israel had cancelled

the planned project.

"Israel is prepared to discuss with anybody the supply of gas, including the Qatari government, and Enron, which proposed the supply of liquid gas," Sharon said.

The deal was agreed upon at a Middle East economic summit two years ago. US energy giant Enron Corp. spearheaded the project to set up a \$300m. plant in Akaba to bring liquefied natural gas (LNG) from Qatar to Israel and Jordan in the first quarter of 2001.

Investors say the Israeli government's earlier reluctance was based on economics. They say Israel believes getting LNG from

Qatar by vessels was more expensive than other sources, including direct pumping of gas from Egypt. Sharon has written to the Qatari foreign minister confirming Israel's interest in the deal. However, Sharon is also examining alternatives, from a variety of sources.

Dabbas said that Jordan's own letter of intent with Enron, which was signed last March, also lapsed after a 180-day period expired.

Investors say the project collapsed after Israel and Jordan failed to finalize long-term supply accords with Enron.

Jordanian investors said Enron had been notified by Israel late last year that it no longer was interest-

ed in the project.

The Israeli government sent a letter to Enron saying that a letter of intent it signed with Enron in October 1995 was no longer binding," said an investor close to the deal.

Dabbas, however, said that Enron still had not shelved plans to set up an electric power plant in Akaba.

The project was the largest undertaking planned so far between Israeli and Jordanian private investors. Investors say its collapse is a serious setback to efforts to create large private sector joint ventures between the two states that would create a common interest in preserving peace.

## Shahak: Officers were not negligent

By ARISH O'SULLIVAN

Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin Shahak denied yesterday reports that IDF commanders sent the Nabal squad to its death in Lebanon last week by deploying it down a gully known to be rigged and watched by Hizbullah.

"From what I understand and from what I learned from the debriefing, I won't describe what happened there as a 'screw-up' or any other terms people like to use," Shahak said. "For a long time we have been waging a constant war in Lebanon against terrorists in very many places and [the public] only pay attention when there are casualties on our side." Shahak was responding to a report in Ha'aretz in which an unnamed "senior officer" said sending the Nabal squad to the gully was unnecessary and neglectful. An officer and two soldiers were killed when they tripped a hidden bomb in the Wadi Alman gully early Thursday on their way to ambush Hizbullah guerrillas.

Accompanying Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai on a visit to Gush Katif and the Gaza Strip, Shahak told reporters that there were many IDF successes in south Lebanon, but that they have not been revealed to the public.

## PLO faces trial over Klinghoffer

By MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK - The Palestine Liberation Organization faces an unprecedented trial for the murder of Leon Klinghoffer after years-long negotiations failed to conclude a settlement in the \$1.9 billion civil lawsuit over the 1985 Achille Lauro hijacking.

US District Judge Louis Stanton last week set the court date for June 2. The trial would be the first chance to hold the PLO financially liable for the actions of a terrorist wing.

In January 1996, the PLO and the Klinghoffer family told Stanton that they had reached an agreement in principle to settle the suit. That agreement called for the creation of a "peace studies" institute to "memorialize the tragic death of Leon Klinghoffer as well as other victims of violence in the region, of all religions and nationalities," according to a letter sent to Stanton at that time.

"The PLO is still committed to the agreement in principle," the PLO's attorney, Lawrence Schilling, told The Jerusalem Post yesterday. He declined to indicate the obstacles to concluding the settlement. "A settlement doesn't have an easily identified beginning, middle and end," he said, adding, "Neither side has walked away from it."

"We hope it will happen sooner than later," he said. "We have the dates that the judge set out, so we will be negotiating with those dates in mind." Klinghoffer, a 69-year-old New Yorker, was shot to death in his wheelchair and tossed overboard by terrorists who hijacked the ship off Port Said, Egypt. PLO leader Yasser Arafat has denied involvement in the hijacking.



Changing of the guard

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai reviews new security arrangements at the Karni Crossing at the Gaza Strip. The IDF is handing over security checks to a private professional security company. Mordechai told reporters that he would continue with the traditional release of prisoners for the Muslim holiday of Id al-Fitr and that an undisclosed number would be released at the weekend as a goodwill gesture.

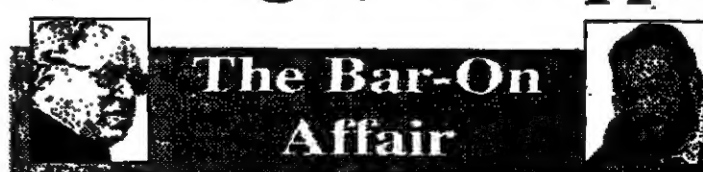
(Text: Arish O'Sullivan; Photo: Defense Ministry)

## Police set to summon Lieberman, Deri, Olmert, Hanegbi, and Appel

By RAINE MARCUS

Police investigating the "Bar-On for Hebron" affair expect to summon an additional eight witnesses this week. They include Prime Minister's Office Director-General Avigdor Lieberman, Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert, Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi, MK Aryeh Deri (Shas), businessman David Appel, who is a close friend of Deri's, and others.

It is not yet known whether police and State Attorney Edna Arbel will ask a court to lift journalist/source



The Bar-On Affair

confidentiality regarding Channel 1's Ayala Hasson, but a police source said this probably would not be necessary.

The source said that Hasson's report had truth in it, but "there were many inaccuracies, too. However, we have opened a can of

worms in this investigation."

The police spokesman said that no one had been questioned yesterday and that the investigation team, led by Cmdr. Sando Mazor, is still gathering information and determining how to proceed in the inquiry.

## EREZ

Continued from Page 1

mately be found, but admitted this could be "a question of time."

"I believe Syria says it's ready to start the talks, even if it may have some reservations. But this is a question of time and it's bound to be resolved," he said.

Yet, US officials privately suggest that Cairo and Damascus, which have worked closely together in the past, now differ on how to deal with Israel in the aftermath of the Hebron accord.

Statements by senior Egyptian officials over the weekend have suggested that progress on the Palestinian track will be key in paving the way for Israel to emerge from its regional isolation.

There are indications that Netanyahu's foreign policy adviser Dore Gold visited Oman last week in a bid to enhance ties.

In contrast, Syrian Vice President Abdel Halim Khaddam and Foreign Minister Farouk Shara visited Gulf countries last week urging them to keep the regional pressure on Israel and halt normalization until there is movement on the Syrian track.

United Press International cited Syrian diplomatic sources in Damascus yesterday as saying that Khaddam and Shara will shortly continue their regional

diplomatic drive to isolate Israel by visiting Algeria, Morocco, Libya and Tunisia.

Syria believes that only if Israel is isolated regionally will it be forced to accept Damascus's demands as a condition for renewing talks. Netanyahu utterly rejects the Syrian notion that in the past Israel committed itself to full withdrawal from the Golan and therefore he is bound to accept this idea if he wants talks to resume.

Speaking in Davos yesterday, Netanyahu suggested that Israel will not beg Syria to restart talks if Damascus is reluctant.

"I cannot force President Assad to resume the peace talks. If he wants to, we'll find the formula. If he doesn't want to, there can always be 100 reasons why we cannot start the peace talks."

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai said yesterday peace talks with Syria cannot resume as long as there are attacks on IDF forces in Lebanon, but denied this was a condition for resuming peace negotiations with Damascus.

"We are interested in renewing the negotiations with the Syrians. Together with this we are telling the Syrians that political negotiations and progress in the peace process cannot progress with terrorist acts in Lebanon and other places against the State of Israel," Mordechai said to reporters during a tour yesterday of the Karni

Crossing at the Gaza Strip.

"Syria should be no less interested in peace talks and it needs to exert all of its influence so that terror attacks won't happen due to its permission, intention or direct support," he said.

It remained unclear yesterday if the Israeli-Egyptian relationship will quickly improve. Mubarak, as expected, did invite Netanyahu to Cairo, but there is no early date for such a meeting. In return, Netanyahu extended one in an endless series of invitations to Mubarak to visit Israel, but Mubarak did not react. With the exception of Yitzhak Rabin's funeral, Mubarak has refused to visit Israel since assuming the Egyptian presidency in 1981.

Meanwhile, reporters chided Netanyahu after he shook hands with Arafat yesterday. They noted a pivotal Likud election commercial showed a snippet of Arafat and Shimon Peres holding hands in Davos two years ago, and asked if this was fair given the fact that Netanyahu is doing the same thing. The premier rejected the comparison, insisting that the Likud ad focused on Peres being "led" by Arafat.

Peres also was at Davos, and he and Netanyahu met last night. Today, Netanyahu heads to the Vatican, where he will meet Pope John Paul II.

Arish O'Sullivan and Eldad Beck contributed to this report.

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Mr. Barrie Meerkinn, whose last known address was 2 Malabar Road, "Torres", Victoria 3142, Australia, and 3 Dov Hoz Street, Herzliya, Israel.

TAKE NOTICE THAT, in the matter of the complaints made against you by the Law Society of Hong Kong, the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal will pronounce its decision at 6:30 p.m., on February 21, 1997, at Rooms 1403-1413 Swiss House, Central, Hong Kong.

Your attendance will be required at this date, time and place aforesaid. Called the 27th day of January, 1997.

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# Court cancels planned firings

## Setback for Haifa Chemicals' management

By DAVID RUDGE

The Haifa District Labor Court yesterday cancelled the decision by Haifa Chemicals management to dismiss 124 of the firm's 500 employees.

Judge Doron Maiblum upheld the Histadrut's petition against the dismissals, ruling them null and void. He said management had not acted with integrity and had not adhered to procedures in accordance with labor agreements in firing the 124 workers.

Meanwhile, members of the Knesset Economic Affairs

Committee, led by chairman Eli Goldschmidt, visited the Haifa Chemicals' plant yesterday and tried to rescue the stalled negotiations between management and workers.

Though management had said it would send representatives to the site to meet with the MKs, they did not arrive.

Goldschmidt said he found this disturbing when the two sides were supposed to be holding talks and that it had "left a bad taste in my mouth."

Meanwhile, the High Court of Justice is to hold an initial hearing

on Thursday on the Histadrut's petition against a National Labor Court decision cancelling the collective agreement at the factory.

The Histadrut is seeking a temporary injunction to prevent management from implementing the decision, maintaining that the collective agreement should be reinstated until a new accord is reached in negotiations with the firm.

So far, however, the talks have failed to progress and there has been no contacts between the two sides for over a week. The factory itself has been closed and production at a standstill for over three months.

## Yediot-Ma'ariv wiretapping case takes new twist:

# Laufer reportedly looking to block admission of testimony

By RAIME MARCUS

Private investigator Ze'ev Laufer, who Ma'ariv paid \$600,000 to give evidence implicating Yediot Aharonim, may ask Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court to conduct a mini-trial on the admissibility of his evidence, sources said yesterday.

Laufer is believed to have given evidence recently against Ma'ariv, whose publisher Ofer Nimrod and security officer David Ronen are currently on trial in the media wiretapping case.

Laufer, who is charged with 18 counts of wiretapping for allegedly commissioning wiretaps from private investigators Rafi Friedman and

Ya'acov Tsar on behalf of Yediot and others, did not have a defense attorney until now. However, following the appointment of two defense lawyers, sources said, he may be regretting evidence he gave to police and the district attorney against Yediot security officer Haim Rozenberg and the daily's publisher Amnon Mozes.

Yesterday, Tsar testified against Laufer for the second time. Evidence Tsar submitted to police as part of his state's witness agreement shows that his main employer was Ma'ariv.

Appearing before Judge Michael Rozen, Tsar told how Laufer commissioned him to tap the phones of Ze'ev Mozes, who was at odds

with Amnon Mozes over control of the daily; Tami and Judy Mozes, Amnon Mozes' sisters; and Oded Mozes, as part of the internal family war within Yediot.

Tsar testified that David Ronen told him that Ze'ev Mozes had met with the then GSS chief to tell him of a bug he found on his phone. The GSS chief refused to get involved, according to Tsar's evidence.

Tsar also said that he and his partner, Friedman, had master keys to every Bezek exchange box in the country, given to them by technician Hani Mizaki, who also is on trial in the media wiretapping case.

Laufer's trial continues in May.

## Nurses call strike at most hospitals

By JUDY SEGAL

Nurses at most of the general hospitals will hold a "general strike" tomorrow due to severe overcrowding in these institutions. Union head Hana Cohen said the nurses could no longer carry out their responsibilities professionally due to the 140 percent to 150 percent capacity of departments and patients being forced to lie on beds in the corridors.

General hospitals owned by the government, Kupat Holim Clalit and voluntary organizations such as the Hadassah-University Hospitals and Shaare Zedek in Jerusalem will be affected. Nurses will be absent from all ambulatory services in the hospitals, including outpatient clinics, day hospitals and diagnostic institutes. In addition, elective surgery will be cancelled, and the wards will have only a minimum (Shabbat-schedule) complement of nurses on the job. Neonatal, delivery, fertility, dialysis and oncology units will function on a reduced schedule.

Laniado Hospital in Netanya will not be affected, as

all staffers sign a no-strike clause as part of their contract.

In letters to the prime minister, finance minister and health minister last week, Cohen accused Treasury officials of being responsible for the deterioration in the hospitals since September, when it agreed to negotiate the matter of updating 13-year-old official nursing standards. These set down how many nurses are required to treat patients in each department.

Since then, nothing has been settled, Cohen claimed. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu made a visit last week to Tel Aviv's Ichilov Hospital, where he saw severe patient overcrowding and said he would speak to the health and finance ministers about ways of alleviating the hospitals' problems.

The Health Ministry reiterated that in October a special committee representing the employers and the nurses was set up. The committee is due to complete its work on nursing standards in March, thus "the ministry sees no reason to go on strike before all the deliberations are completed."

## Tel Aviv, the wheezy city?

By HELEN KAYE

The Israel Union for Environmental Defense (IUED) will be monitoring air and noise pollution at various locations around Tel Aviv for a week beginning next Sunday.

The action is in response to a report the Tel Aviv Municipality published last week which indicated that pollution levels have decreased significantly over the past five years, largely because of the growing use of unleaded gasoline for automobiles.

"We question the reliability of their data," IUED's coordinator of air quality affairs, Jeremy Samat, says, "because they have only two

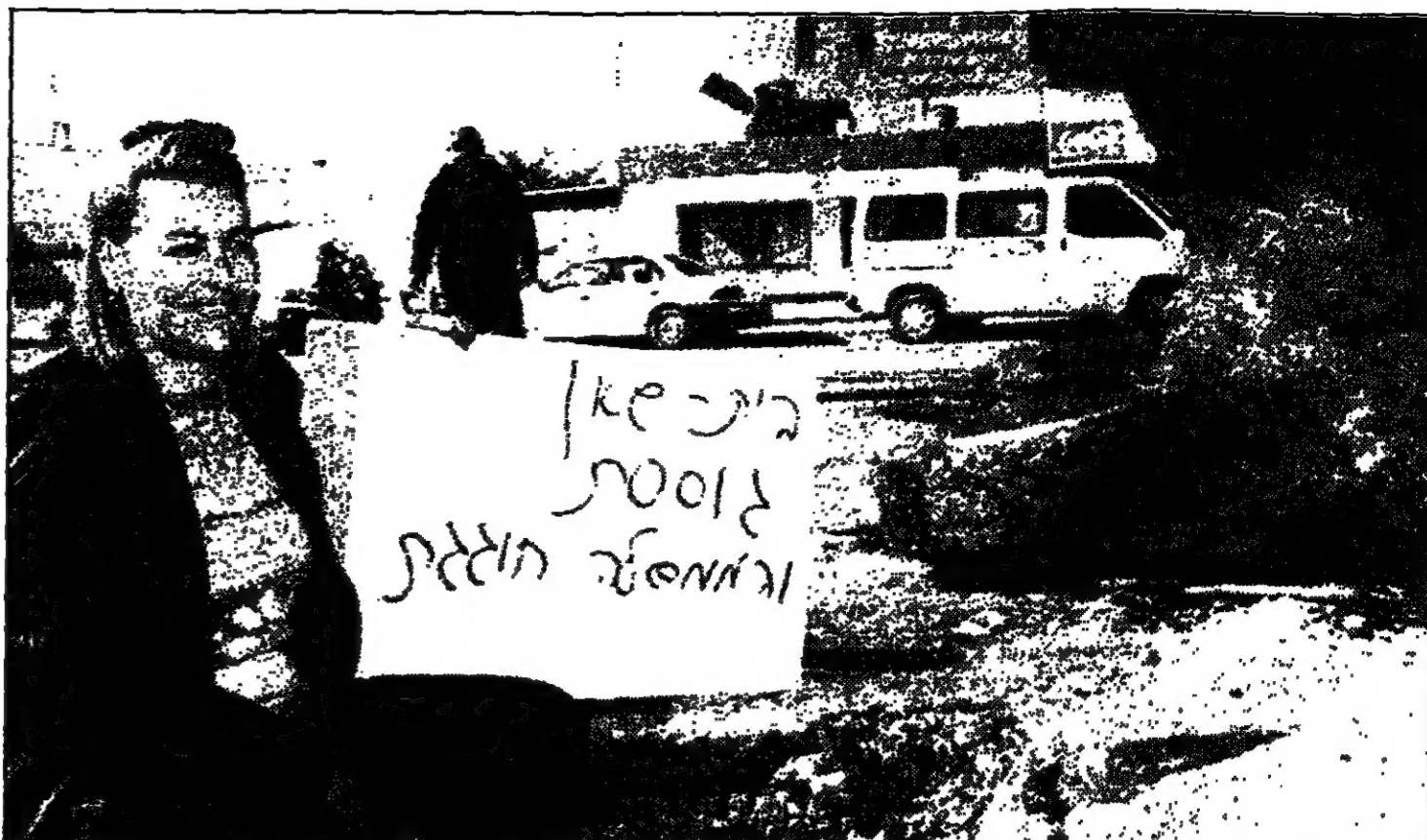
monitoring stations whose range is limited.

Venues for the spot checks include the city's busiest intersections, such as those by the Arlosoroff railway station, Dizengoff Center and the new central bus station. Volunteers will monitor concentrations of pollutants such as carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides, benzene, ozone, particulate (invisible) dust and noise, all of which pose serious, sometimes life-threatening, health hazards.

Samat stressed that IUED's action "is not a proper study, for which we don't have the resources, but to alert the general public to the dangers of pollution."

The IUED maintains that only the threat of legal action galvanized the Tel Aviv Municipality to publish the data on air pollution which it had refused to give the organization on the grounds that the figures were an internal matter.

In response, Moshe Blasenheim, head of the city's department of the environment, said that IUED's contention was "pure fabrication. We told them that they could get the data from its owners, the Israel Electric Corporation or the Ministry of the Environment. We held the press conference because of the scare tactics used, of which IUED was the prime instigator."



Sima Ohayon joins a protest outside the Beit She'an Engines factory yesterday, which was temporarily closed to workers by management due to a lack of orders.

# Beit She'an Engines workers demand right to go back to work

By DAVID RUDGE

Anxious employees of the Beit She'an Engines factory in the development town demonstrated outside the plant yesterday to press for the right to be able to continue working.

The 35 workers of the privately-owned concern, which refurbishes engines used in IDF vehicles, arrived at the plant in the morning to find the factory gates closed.

"Management had already informed us that the firm has not received enough work from the Defense Ministry to keep the factory in production," said Avi Aburmad, chairman of the works committee.

"Over the years, the orders have

been reduced and so have the number of workers. Now there aren't even enough orders to keep us employed," said the 45-year-old father of three.

"I started at the factory when I was 17, virtually when it opened, and returned to work here after my army service. It's like a second home, not just a place of work."

"We are not asking for the government to subsidize the factory but for the Defense Ministry to give enough orders to keep the plant and the workers employed. It's better than having to give us unemployment pay and seeing another factory in the town closed down," said Aburmad.

The workers burned tires and wooden pallets outside the factory gates. They were joined by employ-

ees from the nearby Milkman dairy, which is owned by Tuva, after rumors spread through the plant yesterday that Tuva intends to sell or close the factory.

Police were at the scene but did not intervene and the demonstration passed peacefully. Tuva director-general Arik Reichman confirmed that the Milkman dairy had been running at a loss for some time and there was insufficient work.

"It's not inconceivable that the place will have to be closed, but we have not done so until now because we are sensitive to how this would affect the town. A decision will probably be taken in three or four months," he said.

Pinni Kabalo, chairman of the Histadrut branch in Beit She'an,

said they had sent letters to the prime minister, the defense minister and Foreign Minister David Levy, himself a resident of Beit She'an, urging them to intervene and prevent the threatened closure of the engines factory and the Milkman dairy.

Kabalo said the town had already been badly hit by the closure of most of the Kitan textile firm's plant, cuts in staff at the Beit She'an archeological site, the Of-Tov poultry plant and other factories.

"If things carry on like this I will also find myself out of a job because there won't be any workers left for the Histadrut to protect and assist because there won't be any factories left open," he declared.

## Histadrut leadership fires Na'amat head Friedman from finance committee

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN

The Histadrut leadership yesterday dismissed Na'amat Chairperson Ofra Friedman (Labor) from the Histadrut's finance committee, despite the objection of Labor's members in the leadership.

Friedman said the dismissal is illegal, since she was not appointed by Histadrut Chairman MK Amir Peretz as a committee member, but represents Labor's faction in it. Peretz has no say in determining who represents Labor in the committee.

"My mandate as Na'amat leader, and in the Histadrut's leadership and other institutions and my duty to state my opinion derive from the hundreds of thousands of women members who elected me," Friedman commented, noting that Peretz himself was never elected to any post.

Friedman was referring to the fact that Peretz was appointed Histadrut chairman only because

former chairman Haim Ramon left in mid-term.

Friedman noted that "even if I'm ejected from all Histadrut bodies I shall not be deterred from criticizing faulty moves." She now expects Labor leadership and its Histadrut faction to take a stand against Peretz "and his mouth-shutting tactics." The official reason for Friedman's discharge was her criticism against Peretz's decision, to cut Na'amat's annual budget by 60% - from NIS 17.5 mil-

lion to 7.5m. - while continuing to transfer large sums of money to the bankrupt Hapoel sports association.

The real reason, however, was Friedman's breaking up the coalition in Na'amat's executive last week and sending Ram's members to the opposition, after they voted against the slashed budget. These same members, however, did not vote against this budget when it was passed in the Histadrut leadership.



Actor Yosef Millo, 81

Actor Yosef Millo died yesterday at the age of 81. Millo, who was one of the founders of the Cameri Theater and the Haifa Municipal Theater, also was a renowned director and wrote children's plays. His funeral will take place today in Jerusalem.

(Text: Hani; Photo: Karen Ben-Zion)

## LIBI - The Fund for Strengthening Israel's Defense

### Libi offers grateful thanks to The British Friends of Israeli War Disabled

During their visit to Israel, representatives of the British Friends of Israeli War Disabled, President, Mrs. Ann Randall, Chairman, Mr. Brian Harris, this week paid a visit to the Air Force Rescue and Evacuation Unit, where they dedicated a stand-by vehicle they have donated. This vehicle will make it possible to reduce the time needed to get medical crews to their helicopter, for missions to evacuate IDF wounded. This generous donation is just one item in a long list of contributions of medical equipment donated by the organization to the IDF Medical Corps.



Standing in front of the donated vehicle (from left to right): BFIWD representatives - Mr. Daniel Caspi, Mr. Brian Harris, Mr. Leoni Laboff, Mr. Gerald Levy, Mrs. Ann Randall, and Dr. Gidi Sahar; Libi representatives - Col. Meir Blayer, and Lieut. Col. Dvora Ritot.

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# Corsican separatists mount 58-bomb show of force

By SYLVIE FLORENCE

AJACCIO, Corsica (Reuters) - Corsican separatist guerrillas defied a French government crackdown to mount a show of force on the Mediterranean island yesterday, exploding 58 mostly tiny bombs in a few hours.

No one was injured in the pre-dawn blitz and damage was mostly limited to smashed windows or damaged doorways at post offices, tax offices and other symbols of French state authority in towns and villages.

The outlawed Corsican National Liberation Front (FLNC) Historic Wing, seeking to prove it has not been crushed by the detentions of three political leaders in recent weeks, said it planned the 58 bombs and four others that failed to explode.

"The future lies in struggle," it said in a statement, accusing the center-right French government of

betrayal and reiterating calls for greater autonomy for the island. "We will have multiple struggles, both in Corsica and in Europe." It was the most violent night on the island since February 9 last year, when the Resistenza separatist group staged 50 blasts and attempted bombings. On one night in August 1982, more than 100 bombs exploded.

Police did not report any arrests despite security bolstered by police reinforcements from the mainland. The government has pledged to crack down on 20 years of separatist violence on the island of 250,000 people.

Most bombs were in remote rural areas where gendarmes mount only sporadic patrols with one bomb in the main town, Ajaccio.

Investigators reckoned 120 to 150 people were involved in the attacks, planting sticks of dynamite with slow-burning fuses. Corsican guerrillas have never

been taken as seriously as Irish Republican Army guerrillas in Northern Ireland or ETA Basque separatists in Spain, partly because they deliberately seek to avoid casualties and are deeply divided over their tactics and goals.

Opinion polls show most people on Corsica, the birthplace of Napoleon, do not want full independence from France but many favor separatist goals of a greater role for Corsican language and culture.

Most of yesterday's blasts were in the north of the island.

Many occurred between 4:30 a.m. and 5:30 a.m., targeting 13 post offices, half a dozen tax offices, state-run banks, chambers of commerce, two Air France offices and other state-run buildings.

There were a total of 574 bomb attacks in 1996 and 602 in 1995, but prosecutors say many were linked to organized crime.



Your move

Two students play chess as hundreds of their colleagues block one of the main streets in the Bulgarian capital during a protest against the socialist party yesterday. Protesters blocked main roads around Bulgaria yesterday as leaders of the ruling Socialist party met to try to form a new government, ignoring four weeks of daily opposition rallies and calls for immediate elections. (Reuters)

## Pakistan president promises free poll

By RAJIA ASGHAR

ISLAMABAD (Reuters) - Pakistani President Farooq Leghari vowed yesterday to hold free and fair elections today but ousted prime minister Benazir Bhutto said she feared vote-rigging.

"By tomorrow night, we will, God willing, complete the process of free, fair and transparent elections," Leghari said in a televised address to the nation, hours before the polls open at 7:00 a.m. Bhutto's main rival, former prime minister Nawaz Sharif, said he was confident of winning the election. Opinion polls put him as the front runner.

Leghari, who sacked Bhutto's government three months ago on charges of corruption and misuse, asked people to vote "wisely and selflessly" today.

He said a government giving

good governance could justly expect to complete its tenure "but a government which is reckless and irresponsible will not be forgiven by the people." Bhutto said at her family village of Naudero in the southern province of Sindh she had reports that the caretaker government planned to rig the vote in 63 constituencies of the 217-seat National Assembly (lower house) and that she would not accept the result if it happened.

Sharif said he was counting on a comfortable majority in the National Assembly.

He said tackling Pakistan's dire economic problems would be his first priority if elected prime minister.

He told Reuters in his home city of Lahore that repairing the economy would be a long, difficult task, but he was confident Pakistan could become an "Asian

Tiger." "The economy is in very bad shape because of the mismanagement of the Benazir Bhutto government," he said.

Bhutto, who received a tumultuous welcome from crowds as she drove to Naudero, said Pakistan was in "a terrible economic crisis" that only her Pakistan People's Party (PPP) could tackle.

She said she had written to Chief Election Commissioner Fakhre Alam about her fears of vote-rigging and asked him to stop this from happening.

Bhutto said she would not accept the result if it did not reflect the results of the 1988 and 1993 elections, which she had won. "If there is rigging, the nation will not accept the result," Alam said his commission had made arrangements to hold fair elections and he expected a good turnout of voters.

## Report: Former Chirac deputy oversaw shipment of Jews in 1942

PARIS (AP) - A longtime deputy of President Jacques Chirac was responsible for "maintaining order" over a shipment of Jews from occupied France to a German death camp during World War II, a magazine reported.

The report, in the weekly *Le Point* dated Saturday, comes amid renewed debate over Vichy France's treatment of Jews and a week after a French court ordered the trial of a former Vichy official.

The German forces deported 75,000 Jews from France to Nazi death camps during the Vichy regime. Only 2,500 survived.

*Le Point* said Michel Junot, a deputy to then-Paris Mayor Chirac from 1977 to 1995, was a high-ranking official under the pro-Nazi Vichy government whose responsibility included the Pithiviers internment camp, 70 km. south of Paris.

In an interview with the magazine, Junot, now 80, admitted to being the region's deputy prefect under the Vichy regime, but said he "had no authority over the camp." Citing Vichy documents, though, including some written by Junot, *Le Point* said he was in charge of "maintaining order" over the September 20, 1942, shipment of 1,000 interned French and foreign Jews, including 163 children.

"I have the honor of letting you know that I have just been advised that a shipment of 1,000 Israelites... will take place tomorrow," Junot wrote in a formal request for additional police to oversee the departure.

Two days later, Junot wrote, "I had certain fears regarding the possibility of incidents that could have had repercussions during the departure. There was nothing, and the greatest calm never ceased to reign over the city." The September 20 shipment of Jews from Pithiviers was sent to Drancy, north of Paris, and then to Auschwitz, *Le Point* said.

Junot told *Le Point* he knew the camp held "communists... and there were foreign Jews," but said he did not know their destination.

"The rumors said they were sending them to work in the salt mines in Poland," he said. "We imagined they were not going on an agreeable

vacation. But I never learned about the existence of the extermination camps until 1945." Junot defended members of the Vichy regime as "conscientious," and said it held few who collaborated with the Germans.

"The men of Vichy, in the great majority, did their work conscientiously, honestly, more or less skillfully," he told *Le Point*.

The *Le Point* report comes a week after France's highest court ordered former Vichy official Maurice Papon, 86, to stand trial for crimes against humanity.

Papon is accused of ordering the arrest and deportation of 1,690 French Jews between 1942 and 1944, and is only one of a handful of Vichy officials to face justice.

"I find it curious, 50 years later, the renewal of passionate interest for this dramatic period, since during the 50s everything seemed to have been said," Junot, who also served in the French parliament from 1958 to 1962, told *Le Point*.

"If there were French who made errors, or sometimes committed crimes during this era, I think there is a discreet veil of history," he said.

## Italy confirms holding valuables from Shoah

ROME (AP) - The Italian government has traced five crates of gold and valuables apparently taken from Jewish victims of the Nazis in World War II, an official said yesterday.

The trunks are being held in a storage vault of the Treasury Ministry in Rome, and were located after an inquiry by the Jewish community of Trieste, said Michele De Feis, prefect of the northeastern Italian city.

The items - including rings, jewels, watches and gold dental fillings - may have belonged to Jews who died in the only Nazi concentration camp on Italian soil, at a converted rice-husking plant in Trieste, said De Feis, who as prefect is the national government's top local representative.

The Milan daily *Corriere della Sera* said the valuables came from Jewish homes looted by the Nazis, who occupied Trieste in the latter part of the war. De Feis, in a telephone interview, said the value of the items was unclear.

According to documents in Trieste archives, the Jewish community asked for the articles to be returned in 1962, but the government refused "because it could not be proved [they] actually belong to Jews," the official said. Some items already had been returned in 1958, he said.

The Jewish community renewed their inquiry in December, and the Treasury Ministry confirmed the existence of the trunks on Friday, De Feis said.

The items had been transported by the Nazis to Austria but were recovered shortly after the war. The issue has become prominent lately with reports that Switzerland acted as a major launderer of Nazi gold, much of it looted from Jews.

## Charles reportedly wants 'honest life' with Camilla

LONDON (Reuters) - Prince Charles is preparing to start a more open life with his mistress, Camilla Parker Bowles, and the couple could eventually appear regularly together in public, a

newspaper reported yesterday.

The *Sunday Times* report was dismissed as speculation by a spokeswoman for the Prince of Wales, the heir to the throne.

Earlier this month, the *Daily Mirror* quoted an unnamed member of staff at Highgrove, the prince's west of England house, saying Parker Bowles had been allocated a bedroom there. Since Charles divorced Princess

Diana last year, there has been speculation he would like to marry Parker Bowles.

But such a move could harm his chances of becoming king when his mother, Queen Elizabeth, dies.

Charles was reported three weeks ago to have admitted to failing the British monarchy and vowing to "sort the whole bloody mess out" by reaching out more to ordinary people.

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**IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE SANHEDRIN**  
The Bar-Kochba Revolt failed. 600,000 Jews died. Jerusalem was destroyed. Jews were sold as slaves, and Tora study came to an end. But a new center arose in the Galilee, and the towns of Zippori and Tiberias became famous. We'll visit them, as well as Beit Shearim, the burial place of Rabbi Yehuda Hanasi and his family.  
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## Cosby on road to recovery

WEST PALM BEACH, Florida (AP) - In his first live performance since his son was killed, Bill Cosby compared his grief to the way he felt when Martin Luther King Jr. and President Kennedy were assassinated.

Then, as now, the comedian and TV actor said, somebody needed to make people laugh during a somber time.

"As an entertainer, it seemed like something should happen to help break the spirit," he said on Saturday night.

He told a crowd of 2,200 people at the Kravis Center for the Performing Arts that he was not afraid to return to work.

"This is not difficult for me because a part of my lifetime is you all," he said.

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## Talks at gunpoint

FOLLOWING the deaths of three IDF soldiers in south Lebanon last week, President Ezer Weizman said that Israel "cannot start talking (with Syria) so long as things in Lebanon continue as they are now." Yesterday, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai said that there will be no progress in potential talks if Syria does not "make every effort to curb terror" in Lebanon. Although Weizman's sentiments are understandable, the government is right to seek talks with Syria, but for now the only thing to talk about is ending the fighting in Lebanon.

Weizman's remarks echo those he made after the suicide attacks last year, when he called for suspending the talks with the Palestinians. At that time he also reflected the public mood that Israel cannot talk about peace at gunpoint. As leader of the opposition, Binyamin Netanyahu was a strong proponent of this approach, in which terror and the peace process could not proceed at the same time.

The previous government was faced with the dilemma of continued terrorist attacks in the heart of Israel, despite its aggressive pursuit of talks with the Palestinians. Each attack was met with repetition of the formula that the talks must continue because halting the peace process would be "giving in to terrorism." So far Netanyahu, despite his previous stance, has basically continued this refusal to link terrorism or violence against Israel to a cessation of the peace process. He did not call for ending the talks following the violence in September surrounding the opening of the Western Wall Tunnel exit, he accelerated them. Again, after the terrorist attack near Beit El in December, Netanyahu did not even hint at suspending talks, citing instead the responsiveness of the Palestinian Authority to apprehending the terrorists.

Now the Netanyahu government faces a similar dilemma regarding the fighting in Lebanon and potential talks with Syria: Should Israel sit down at the negotiating table with an adversary which is, at the same moment, responsible for killing Israelis? The logic of Weizman's solution — don't talk to them while they are killing us — appeals to the national sense of justice, and is certainly tempting to follow. It is certainly more compelling than the opposite approach, in which the peace process is pursued with unbridled fervor no matter how much Israel is attacked.

In reality, however, neither the current nor the previous government has been willing to tightly link or completely delink continuation of the peace process with cessation of violence against Israel. The previous government postponed the withdrawal from Hebron in response to terrorist attacks, despite its opposition to linkage. The

current government plunged ahead with the Hebron deal despite the violent attacks during its watch, and despite its support for linkage. Both governments found that linkage or delinkage in their absolute forms was not practical. Instead, what is emerging is a linkage to the content of the process, rather than to the process itself.

In other words, the Netanyahu government is willing to talk with Syria despite the plane loads of weapons flowing from Iran through Damascus to Hizbullah's forces in south Lebanon — but so long as Syria fails to rein in Hizbullah, Lebanon will be the only item on the agenda.

This is the right stance to take. Following Weizman's advice and boycotting talks completely would probably not accomplish anything. At the same time, the Netanyahu government had better not abandon the linkage concept entirely.

If talks with Syria regarding the larger questions of the Golan Heights and a peace treaty were expected to go quickly, it might make sense to include the question of Lebanon. But with no signs of a quick solution on the larger issues, the matter of Lebanon must be addressed first.

It is appropriate for Israel to start talking with Syria on an open-ended basis, but both sides should know at the outset that those talks will not be continued if Syria is unwilling to do its part and control Hizbullah and the Palestinian terrorist groups based in Damascus.

Before talks even begin, Syria has reportedly asked Israel, through European Union special envoy to the Middle East Miguel Angel Moratinos, to make some confidence-building measure. Israel has already made clear that it is willing to talk on the basis of United Nations Resolutions 242 and 338, which are the basis of the "land for peace" formula. There is no reason, of course, why Israel would be willing to commit to giving up the entire Golan as a condition for entering talks, as Syria is currently demanding.

To add insult to injury, Syrian ambassador to the US Waddi Mauleen has reportedly said in a soon-to-be-published interview that all of Syria's options "are open." Perhaps this is a new definition of hutzpah: Threatening war and asking the other side for confidence-building measures at the same time.

It is far from clear that Syria has really decided that peace with Israel, even on terms that no Israeli government could agree to, is in its interest. If Syria has decided it is time to negotiate in earnest, then it should understand that the only way talks can proceed productively is if Syrian support for the killing of IDF soldiers in south Lebanon stops.

## Posh Baka

SUSAN BELLOS

You're being gentrified." I informed Significant Other over breakfast the other day.

"Gentrified?" said S.O. "You're nuts. Have you been on a bus lately in Baka?"

He has a point. If you get on the bus in Baka you will find it packed to the gills with arthritic old ladies wearing headscarves, and elderly men with paunches

bulging under their skimpy leather jackets.

They aren't going to one of the new health clubs that now adorn South Jerusalem. They are Mahane Yehuda-bound because they can't afford the prices in posh Baka any more.

S.O.'s fellow bus passengers include Sami, Victoria, Jacko, Emilie, Rebecca, Esther, and Bonjour. When not confined to their beds with the miseries of old age, they can often be found swapping recipes or cooking dishes like fassoulia, agriastada, tomates reynado and bouniques.

Posh Baka is busy renovating crumbling old houses which were once Christian Arab middle-class homes. They're what the real estate boys and girls call very desirable "heart of Baka" properties. The new denizens are into wood, glass, stone, secluded courtyards, and private entrances. They are deeply anti-plastic.

You don't see posh Baka on the buses. You don't often see them on the streets, either. They're at home behind their double windows, surfing the Internet.

You don't see much of their minimalist decors through the opaque glass brick walls — per-

haps just the flutter of an occasional bleached linen curtain, or a sliver of bookcase through a softly-lit upper casement window.

You can see right into Jacko and Emilie's because they have fluorescent strip lighting, and no curtains.

Jacko, who has cancer, is sprawled out on a day bed while Emilie, who has high blood pressure and a heart condition, attempts to divert him by switching on Turkish cable TV.

You can see right into Rebecca's too. Like Emilie, she has fluorescent strip lighting, heavy sofas, plastic tablecloths and lace doilies. They add a cozy touch to her draughty bedsit when she drags out the zinc tub on the quaintly tiled floor for her every-other-day bath.

Esther is luckier; she shares a bathroom with another family, and a kitchen under the communal stairwell.

Rebecca, Sami, Victoria, and Bonjour spend a long time waiting for buses these days. When they can afford it, Jacko and Emilie stagger into taxis to take them to Hadassah Hospital.

Posh Baka, who are into things like environmental pressure groups, human rights groups, citizens for quality government, democracy, tolerance, and more progressive forms of Judaism, are also into posh cars.

THE RUMP of diehards still huddling at bus stops seem to be perceived by those who devise our transport policies as not only poor, but clearly rather dumb too. They are not encouraged to go out and about too much, especially in the evenings, when the buses appear at half-hourly intervals and many finish long before most movies and theaters close down for the night. They seem to be in need of care, protection and a curfew.

Before this government, in its zeal to save the nation from economic ruin, slashed the Bolshevik

## Dry Bones



subsidies on pensioners' tickets for cultural activities, Rebecca, Bonjour, and Co. enjoyed going to town to the occasional *romancero* concerts and French-language shows. They also enjoyed visiting their married offspring, who can no longer afford to live in posh Baka.

But regular visits to the children out in Pisgat Ze'ev or Neveh Ya'acov are difficult now, what with those evening bus schedules.

Grownup children tend to work at lunchtime — and on Shabbat, of course, pensioners' morals are protected by the withdrawal of public transport in the capital.

Meanwhile, posh Baka continues to bloom and burgeon. Its choking roads sprout more gift shops, delicatessens, boutiques and bars, and fewer hardware stores, kiosks, and corner groceries.

What used to be called iron-

mongers and drapers, which once made wandering around South Jerusalem so pleasant when you wanted to buy things like kettles, cotton reels and zippers rather than handmade chocolates and imported whiskey, are now of purely historical interest.

Sami, Rebecca and Co., soon to be of historical interest themselves, still go out to take what is left of the air on Derech Beit Lehem.

A kindlier municipal administration has left a few public benches for them to breathe in the fumes of posh Baka's wood-burning stoves and everybody else's cars.

Poor, but no means entirely dumb, Rebecca and Esther note, "It's like America now."

The writer is a Jerusalem journalist.

## Oh, wouldn't it be lovely...

P. DAVID HORNICK

Bipartisanship is in the air. With Labor's Yossi Beilin, the Likud's Michael Elan and their colleagues having released their bipartisan document on final status issues, it is being said that the Likud, having embraced the Oslo process, is now indistinguishable from Labor.

In a sense, it sounds encouraging. Those of us who are in the national camp never wanted to have other Jews as enemies in the first place. For us, the enemy was always Arab extremism. Left-wing Jews were no more than opponents — though often bitter ones, to be sure.

The Left saw it differently. As far as they were concerned, the Arabs had essentially buried the hatchet. It was we, the right-wing Jews, who were the enemy, the last stupid and stubborn obstacle to peace.

Certainly the notion of ending the sharp Israeli political rift (especially with the religious-secular rift seemingly so intractable) is appealing.

But we shouldn't jump the gun. Even after the Hebron agreement, there are important differences in how the Right and the Left view things.

It comes down to this: for the Right, the Oslo process is a problematic situation one has to live with and make the best of. For the Left, the process retains the status of a secular religion, complete with a martyred saint, Yitzhak Rabin, and a teleological goal, an idyllic condition called peace.

For real Israeli unity to emerge,

the Left must abandon that attitude and realize that Oslo is not a sacred writ, but a political program designed by mortals — imperfect, and vulnerable to failure.

The Right, no doubt about it, has come a long way.

Willingly or not, it has had to abandon the "Greater" (more accurately, "Complete") Land of Israel aspiration that the Left has long derided as fundamentalist and mystical. And it has had to accept the notion of Palestinian

been little short of ferocious. It hasn't stopped short of ridiculing the prime minister's wife, and even his five-year-old son.

At the time of the Hasmonean tunnel riots — essentially a murderous attack on Israelis by Palestinian Authority forces — the Left could bring itself to castigate only Netanyahu, preferably on CNN.

Real bipartisanship would mean accepting Netanyahu as a democratically elected leader who is ful-

### ...if the Left could overcome its Oslo mysticism and get real?

political rights, at a level close to statehood. If not statehood itself.

But the Left, too, needs to give ground: it needs to overcome its own mysticism about the Oslo process. And the test of whether it can do that lies in its attitude toward the two key players, Binyamin Netanyahu and Yasser Arafat.

AS THE process draws toward its critical stages, there are bound to be Israel-PA tensions and, very likely, crises.

Can the Left overcome its impulse of automatically blaming Netanyahu and excusing Arafat? It's hard to be optimistic. Over the past eight months, the Left's blame-Netanyahu mentality has

filling his campaign promise of continuing the Oslo process, albeit more cautiously.

It wouldn't mean supporting his every move — for an opposition that would be unnatural. But it would mean respecting him and giving him the benefit of the doubt as he steers the country through a perilous passage.

No less important, bipartisanship would also mean depoliticizing the issues involving Arafat.

One shouldn't, after all, have to be "right-wing" to express concern about Arafat's failure to extradite terrorists or amend the Palestinian Covenant, as he has promised so often; or to worry about the bloated size of Arafat's "police."

These issues should be as important to the Left as they are to the right — and not only in themselves.

Ultimately, whether or not the Oslo process leads to a more peaceful situation or to a conflagration will depend on the honoring of sensitive agreements involving borders, armies, and weaponry.

If, even at this stage, Arafat and the PA are grossly violating key elements of the agreements signed so far, shouldn't the Left, to which the process is so dear, be no less concerned than the Right?

Bipartisanship, unity, consensus — truly a noble goal. Now let us look at the road to it.

A right-wing government that (for better or worse) withdraws from most of Hebron; agrees to at least three further withdrawals from Judea and Samaria; publicly legitimizes Arafat; talks openly about Palestinian near-statehood, or even statehood, has gone the mile. It can't concede anything further without forfeiting the Right's identity entirely.

That means the onus is on the Left.

If it can join forces with the Right in insisting that the Palestinians carry out their obligations and that Israel's basic rights and security are upheld, then we will enter the critical stage of this process a much stronger nation.

It sounds nice, but I'm pessimistic.

The author is a writer and translator living in Jerusalem.

## Manics armed with cellular phones

SUSAN HATTIS ROLEF

There's nothing new about boorishness. But its scope has been expanded through the diffusion of cellular phones.

A while ago my ex-husband sat in my kitchen having coffee. His cellular phone rang. The caller was the woman he currently lives with.

A long, nagging conversation ensued about some errand he wanted done and he was trying to get out of. At the end of it, he lied regarding his whereabouts.

Worst of all, he didn't understand why I was upset. He simply couldn't see that even under less delicate circumstances his behavior would have been rude, that his response should have been: "Sorry, I can't talk now — I'll get back to you later."

My new house rule: No one except a repairman gets past the door with a switched-on cellular phone.

Last week, Ptelephone and Cellcom, the two suppliers of cellular phone services in Israel, ran giant ads in the press. Each out to attract teachers — who recently received a hard-to-refuse offer for cellular phones from the Teachers

Association — the two companies slung mud at each other and flung around charges of disinformation.

My own reaction to these (highly uneducational) ads was a hearty

rant, even to the Knesset library without being forced to listen to loud and trivial phone talk.

This usually goes: "Hi, how are things? Oh, I'm in the supermar-

### This national 'Trivial Pursuit' is polluting our lives and turning us into boors

"plague on both your houses." Why encourage the proliferation of such environmental pollution?

My views on these audio-nuisances haven't changed since I first wrote about them some three years ago, before Cellcom came onto the market.

I complained then about drivers zigzagging along our highways while conducting animated conversations on their cellular phones — a perilous practice that continues despite the current very high fines.

Today you can't go to the super-

ket at the doctor's/having lunch with.../hunting up data for my MK... Right, see you later. Bye...

Given the high cost of these calls, it's amazing that your average Israeli is so willing to throw money away.

Then there are the people who invite you out to dinner or call you in for a meeting — then spend half the time on their telephone instead of doing you the honor of shutting the damned thing off for a spell.

SOME people really do need a

cellular phone.

I'm thinking of taxi drivers, repairmen and, of course, doctors. And I have several colleagues I could never get hold of if they didn't have a telephone, because they are simply never in the office — or don't have one.

A cellular phone is also very handy if your car breaks down in the middle of nowhere or a traffic jam makes you late for an important meeting. But I venture to suggest that the vast majority of calls involving cellular phones are quite superfluous.

And now most of the country's teachers will be equipped with them.

The telephone as a vital item of equipment for turning out educated, decent, considerate members of society? Hardly. But if we're talking about status symbol-seeking boors deficient in the art of real conversation, that's another matter altogether.

And the Ptelephone and Cellcom companies? They'll be laughing all the way to the bank.

The writer is a political scientist.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### CHRISTIAN SUPPORT

Sir, — The Christian leaders of Jerusalem and eastern Israel are showing very clearly whom they have chosen to serve and it certainly isn't the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Sadly, too many Christian leaders around the world are not interested in the fact that the Lord they purport to serve is proving His reality and the truth of His word — the Tanach and the New Testament — as He brings back to Israel His Jewish people and establishes them in His land.

All too clearly these leaders of religion are of the world, with no pretensions of citizenship of the Heavenly Kingdom. They ignore the Tanach for the most part and

reinterpret the New Testament to suit themselves. In blaming Israel for the problems that have befallen them as a result of having chosen to be Israel's enemies, in accepting and propagating the lies of Islam, they are closing their eyes to the truth around them and bringing upon themselves their own downfall. We hope that they will realize that Islam is also their avowed enemy before it is too late.

DENNIS AND PENNY MCLEOD,  
Christian Friends of Israel,  
New Zealand Representatives.

Hamilton, New Zealand.

### TV LISTINGS

Sir, — I think the time has come, indeed it is a long past, for you to check over your TV schedules. They begin to bear little relationship to reality. Weeks, sometimes months, go by before a change in routine time slot is reflected in your listings.

Just for a single illustration: 18:30 Monday, January 27, on Star Plus you list *Chicago Hope*. For at least two weeks, the actual transmission at that time is a BBC rerun called *House of Cards*.

STAN GOODMAN  
Kiryat Tivon.

The Israel Cable Programming comments:  
Star Plus has not been updating its schedules and therefore there have been discrepancies in the listings we provide newspapers over past few weeks.

### COLORING-BOOK EXHIBIT

Sir, — I refer to your article of January 22, "Holocaust survivors protest coloring book exhibit."

To me — a survivor of the Holocaust and a very active volunteer at the Israel Museum — Ram Katzir's exhibition contributes a very important viewpoint to one of the underlying features of Nazi Germany.

The coloring books are not for sale and cannot be bought at the museum gift shops, or anywhere else. In front of the entrance to the exhibition, there is a warning posted in Hebrew and English that it is not for children.

As far as a retrospective exhibition of Felix Nussbaumer is concerned, it will open only on February 13, in the Weisbord Pavilion — not alongside, but quite far from the Billy Rose Pavilion, where the "Within the Lines" exhibition is. But mounting these two exhibitions together at a later date is a very good idea, as these two horrendous subjects are, indeed, related.

RONI FORMAN,  
National Coordinator,  
Shinui English Section

ANNA LEVIN

Ha'anana.

Tel Aviv.

Jerusalem.

APOLIO 20



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## Human Rites

# Africa's Culture War: Old Customs, New Values

By HOWARD W. FRENCH

**F**OR 16 years, Mark Wisdom, a 54-year-old Baptist preacher and a native Ghanaian, has been waging a lonely campaign to end a form of slavery here as old as the culture of the Ewe peasants inhabiting the dusty villages of this poor corner of Ghana.

Ancient Ewe religious custom holds that for serious offenses like murder, rape and theft, the spirits can be appeased only by the enslavement of young virgins from the offender's family in the shrines of traditional priests. While hardly legal, the bondage of such girls, including their sexual enslavement to the priests, is a custom whose roots run far deeper than the paper-thin veneer of Western law that nominally governs life in this west African nation.

Three hours away in Ghana's modern capital, Accra, responding to recent press reports that have brought the practice of ritual slavery to light, legislators have been debating how to eradicate a custom that may victimize as many as 10,000 girls. But Mr. Wisdom knows better than to expect

### On female genital mutilation, the West's hectoring backfires.

much from this; if laws and Government proclamations were enough to truly change the way people live, he said, Africa would already be a much different place.

"Africa's traditions were formed over many generations," he said. "It is not enough to be disgusted with practices like these. It requires very gradual persuasion and lots of patient work to make people change their ways."

Mr. Wisdom's campaign against slavery — not to mention witchcraft, demon worship and ritual sacrifice — is emblematic of a much broader struggle taking place across Africa. Throughout much of the continent, from the ritual slavery of the Ewe to female genital mutilation — to polygamy, ancient practices that strike both Westerners and many Africans as abhorrent coexist side by side with modernity, and show no sign of imminent abandonment.

The clash between modern values shaped by colonialism and contact with the West and ancestral ones is by no means unique to Africa. In China, for example, the last imperial eunuch only recently died, and in rural villages, elderly women whose feet were bound as infants can still be found, relics of another time. Under the harsh interpretation of Islamic law governing Afghanistan today, criminals are often punished with amputation.

But in Africa, where crushing poverty is more widespread than anywhere else and the inroads of literacy are minimal, many



A 12-year-old girl, given up as a slave to atone for a crime by a member of her family, stands at the beck and call of a traditional priest in Tefle, Ghana.

seemingly anachronistic customs appear destined to die the slowest of deaths. While rationalization and gradual progress are taken for granted in the West, they have very little bearing on views of the world shaping life in much of Africa. Here clinging to the belief that death is the result of evil spells rather than accidents or disease provides comfort in a world where life is short and, for many, brutal still.

There are few better examples of the strong hold of old views than in Sierra Leone, another west African nation, where a small group of women has been working, with little success so far, to end the practice of female genital mutilation.

Female genital mutilation or circumcision involves the excision of the clitoris and the cutting of other genital parts to diminish sexual pleasure and supposedly thus insure

the woman's fidelity to husband and family. While it exists in many African societies, elsewhere on the continent it is usually confined to specific regions or ethnic groups. In Sierra Leone, as many as 90 percent of women are thought to suffer the practice, making it easy to isolate the few who advocate its abolition as a suspect and foreign-influenced fringe.

### Defenders of the Ancient

When a newspaper in the capital, Freetown, launched a series of articles against the custom, it became the target of a hostile protest movement by a group of women sworn to defend the rite. Since then, conservative elements in Sierra Leonean society, mostly led by women, have enjoyed great success drumming up support for genital

mutilation, warning against outsiders who seek to impose alien values.

"Almost nothing is happening to stop circumcision," fumed Claudia Anthony, a reporter at the newspaper, For Di People (the name is in the local creole), who has often written on the subject. "No one wants to speak out. People are afraid of taking unpopular measures."

Ms. Anthony's complaint is echoed by frustrated foreign diplomats. "This kind of practice is just plain wrong," one United Nations official in Sierra Leone said. "When are we going to see some Sierra Leonean women, articulate people who have undergone this experience themselves, step forward and condemn it?"

As satisfying as placing a country on an international blacklist might be for some, many Africans who oppose genital mutila-

tion and other traditional rites warn that such a tack would be counterproductive.

"For me, you cannot bring a Western approach, lecturing people about their customs," said Zainab Bangura, a women's rights advocate in Sierra Leone. "The more you decide you are going to take something like this on, the more you are going to face resistance. Instead, a dialogue has to be established, and women here have to understand that Sierra Leone is part of a global community and should not be left out."

Mrs. Bangura said ending female genital mutilation in her country would require an understanding of some of the rituals that surround it, and even rehabilitating them. Traditionally, she said, genital mutilation was the culmination of a months-long retreat

Continued on page 3

## Republicans in Transition

# Corporate Welfare's New Enemies

By DAVID E. ROSENBAUM

**R**EPRESENTATIVE JOHN R. KASICH, one of the standard-bearers in the Republican war on the welfare state, tells a story about an encounter he had recently with a business executive in Texas.

The man complained that doing business in Poland might no longer be profitable if Mr. Kasich succeeded in scrapping a Government program that subsidizes companies investing overseas.

Mr. Kasich says he replied: "I remember during the welfare debate when people stood up and said that if we passed these welfare programs, two million children would end up in poverty. You were one of the people who said, 'It's worth the gamble to change welfare.'"

The man nodded. Mr. Kasich continued: "How can you expect me to tell you that I don't want to risk the fact that you may not get a loan that helps your business in Poland?"

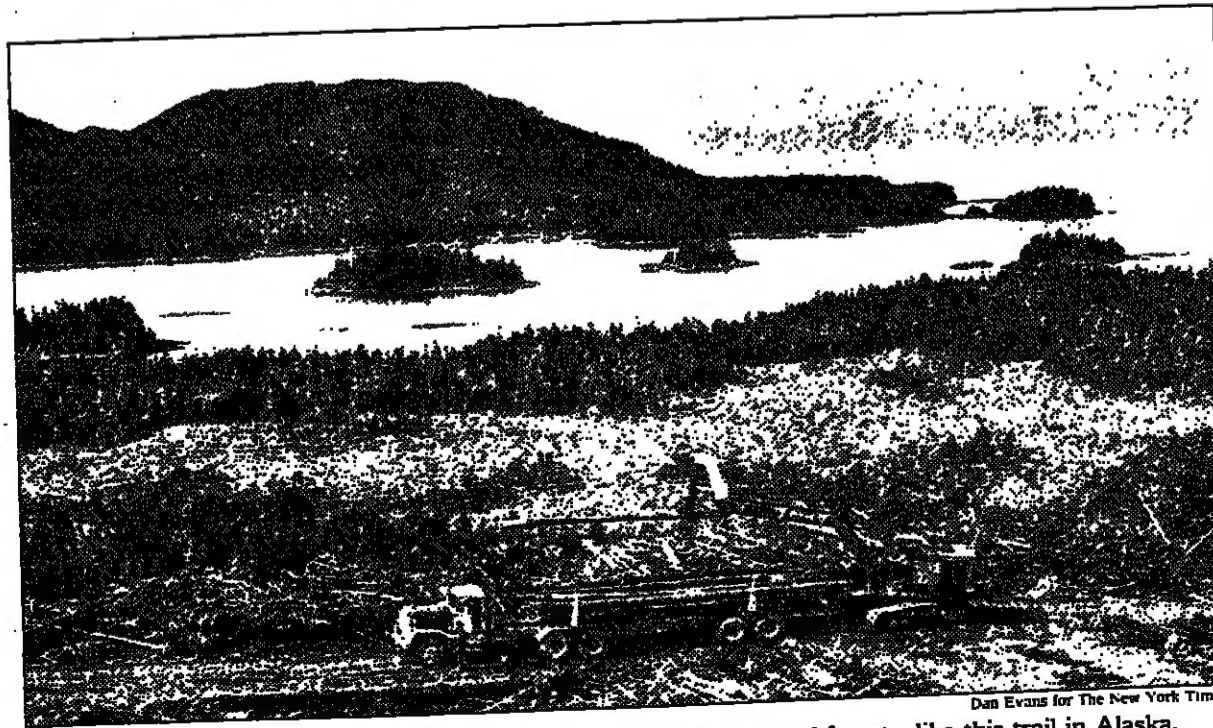
### The Democrats' Issue

Mr. Kasich, an Ohioan who is chairman of the House Budget Committee and an acolyte of Speaker Newt Gingrich, is in the vanguard of a band of Republican politicians who want to cast off the idea that the G.O.P. is primarily the party of business, and to wrest from Democrats the issue of corporate welfare. Republicans should attack unwarranted Government subsidies with equal zeal, Mr. Kasich is fond of saying, whether the handouts go to people or companies.

President Clinton will doubtless make a similar point this week when he sends his budget to Congress. But Mr. Clinton and Mr. Kasich address the matter from different angles.

The President's budget proposes the elimination of several tax breaks enjoyed mostly by big corporations and investors but leaves intact most of the spending that subsidizes companies. Mr. Kasich skirts the question of tax subsidies for business and concentrates on what the Government spends and lends.

Meanwhile, two of the most prominent partisans in the Senate — John McCain, Republican of Arizona, and



One program nominated for abolition builds logging roads in national forests, like this trail in Alaska.

Edward M. Kennedy, Democrat of Massachusetts — took an intermediate approach last week. They proposed the creation of a commission to study all aspects of corporate subsidies and recommend what should be changed.

The politicians' interest is not mysterious. After Republicans took control of Congress two years ago, Frank Luntz, a Republican pollster, field-tested many words and phrases to assess their political appeal.

"Corporate welfare," he reported, was third on the list of "things the public flips out on," right after "foreign aid" and "waste, fraud and abuse."

The problem is, there is almost no agreement on exactly what constitutes corporate welfare.

A series of articles in The Boston Globe last summer

found programs totaling \$150 billion a year. The Cato Institute, a libertarian research center, recently identified \$87 billion worth.

A study in 1995 by the Congressional Budget Office concluded that the Government spends \$28 billion a year promoting commerce and business and another \$2.2 billion in loan subsidies. The budget office also counted more than 60 tax breaks for specific businesses, 14 of them costing the Treasury annually more than \$1 billion apiece.

As a point of comparison, cuts in entitlement programs for the poor, like Medicaid and welfare, total

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## Algeria's Civil War

A ruthless military backed government versus often barbaric Islamic guerrillas.

By Roger Cohen

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Biko, in Retrospect  
Apartheid's Pyrrhic victory.

By John F. Burns

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## State of the Oratory

The constructing of a Clinton speech.

By Alison Mitchell

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## Ideas & Trends

# Why Music From New Movies Is Outselling Other Albums

By MARK LANDLER

**V**ARIETY magazine doesn't carry the Billboard charts. But maybe the publishers of the leading movie and music trade magazines ought to think about collaborating.

Four of the top 10 best-selling albums on Billboard's chart last week were soundtracks from recent Hollywood films. The soundtrack albums of "Evita," "William Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet," "Space Jam" and "The Preacher's Wife" ranked second, third, fifth and seventh respectively.

What may be good for the film industry may also be a symptom of what's wrong with the music business.

ly. All together, they have sold more than 16 million copies.

While soundtracks have been a reliable source of income for the recording industry for years — think of "A Hard Day's Night," "Saturday Night Fever" and "The Big Chill" — their current popularity is remarkable, even for an era in which movies are routinely overshadowed by their promotional campaigns and marketing tie-ins. Geoff Mayfield, director of charts at Billboard, said it was rare for more than three soundtracks to crack the top 10 at the same time.

But if the surge in soundtracks is good for Hollywood — since popular albums help sell movie tickets — it is not necessarily good for the music industry. In fact, several executives said it was a symptom of the industry's ills: Soundtracks are thriving partly because the major labels have lost their knack for developing new artists with original albums.

"It's a reflection of the industry," said Karen Crowe, the vice president of soundtracks at Arista Records. "Soundtracks tend to be thematic, but the artists have gotten away from that." Though today's young performers can craft a catchy tune, many of them are either unwilling or incapable of producing a whole album with a coherent theme or sound.

As the music supervisor for "The Bodyguard," Ms. Crowe harnessed the soaring vocals of Whitney Houston to create one of the best-selling soundtracks in history, with 33 million copies sold. The soundtrack also helped the film, which despite pallid reviews earned more than \$350 million worldwide at the box office. Ms. Houston's powerful voice has vaulted her into movie stardom; "Bodyguard" was followed by "Waiting to Exhale" (which also had a big-selling soundtrack) and "The Preacher's Wife."

Finding original albums by new artists with the talent of Whitney Houston is no easy task. Even bands with promising debut albums, like Hootie and the Blowfish and the Spin Doctors, have failed to extend their early success in subsequent albums. Maybe the culprit was the breakup of the once-dominant top-40 radio format into scores of fragments or maybe it was the narrowing of play lists by music-video channels like MTV, but turning a one-hit wonder into a durable star has become a hard business. For record companies, soundtracks offer

at least a partial solution. With a ready-made theme tied to the film and built-in marketing support, these albums are a much safer way to introduce fledgling artists to the listening public. And because most soundtracks feature music from a variety of performers, they are also a handy way to showcase artists who don't have enough decent music to fill both sides of a compact disc.

On the soundtrack for "William Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet," Capitol Records gathered a clutch of youthful, alternative rock bands to appeal to the same demographic group as the twentysomething stars of the film, Leonardo DiCaprio and Claire Danes. The soundtrack, which features songs by cutting-edge bands like Garbage and the Cardigans, got rave reviews from record executives. With its disaffected tone, it is also a good complement for a film that updates the Bard for the Beverly Hills 90210 crowd.

### Marketing in Disguise

"The great soundtracks serve as marketing tools, but they don't parade themselves as marketing tools," said Glen Brunman, who, as head of soundtracks for Sony Music Entertainment, has developed the albums for "Forrest Gump," "Sleepless in Seattle," and "Jerry Maguire."

Despite their success, some filmmakers believe the using soundtracks as marketing tools is subverting both the albums and the movies they were meant to support. Rather than enhancing a mood, soundtracks are becoming random compilations of songs — many of which do not even accompany the film. None of the songs on the soundtrack for the Eddie Murphy comedy, "The Nutty Professor," were in the movie.



Nora Ephron, a director who has used classic rock tunes to great effect in films like "Sleepless in Seattle" and "Michael," said she loves selecting music for her movies, but she often finds herself at odds with the label producing the soundtracks. "What drives you crazy is that the record company wants to get a hit single out of your movie, and you just want to get music that works," she said.

Such pressures can be even more intense in media conglomerates that own both film studios and music companies. Sony Music, for example, has the right of first refusal on soundtracks for films made by Sony's studios. And while Mr. Brunman said he uses artists from other record labels on his soundtracks, he worked hard to place a song by one of Sony's top female vocalists, Celine Dion, in "Sleepless in Seattle."

"There's a lot of shoe-horning of music into projects, with little motivation other than that the music and the movie are from the same company," said Steve Gottlieb, the president of TVT Records, an independent label that produced soundtracks for "Big Night" and "Scream."

### Find a Two-Album Star

As the media industry consolidates into a handful of conglomerates, pessimists might fret that soundtracks may wind up being no more creative than the movie tie-in plastic figurines that come with a Happy Meal. But optimists can hope that the easy money made from soundtracks will free up time for record executives to find some genuine, good-enough-for-two-or-more-albums stars.

## Next, Nanotechnology

# Is It Going to Be a Smaller World, After All?

By ERIC NASH

**E**NGINEERS for the Xerox Corporation last week unveiled their plans for what their micro-electromechanical systems will be able to create — self-guiding airplane wings with sensors no thicker than peach fuzz and a paint that repaints itself.

It's no accident that these micro-electromechanical systems, or MEMS, are rearing their tiny heads now.

A society's technology always reveals its deepest desires. Think of technological triumphs of the past: the freedom of the automobile, the globe-girding power of the airplane, the sheer excess of the skyscraper, the glory of manned space missions. MEMS are nothing more than the diminutive offspring of the paradigm of limited resources.

MEMS are all about doing more with less, about being lean, mean and next to invisible. At the close of the 20th century, we find there is nowhere left to go but in.

MEMS are still in the model stage, so we only guess at what kind of people will live in this brave new world. Though the science writer Ed Regis gushed about the

nanotechnologist Eric Drexel in his book "Nano," the field of nanotechnology, practically speaking, has not done much since the late physicist Richard Feynman laid out his plans.

Nonetheless, a few science fiction writers have been there and back. MEMS are as much a fixture of the current crop of cyberpunk science fiction — from William Gibson's novel "Idoru" to Neal Stephenson's "Diamond Age" — as rockets and rayguns once were. And they have fantasized about what kind of culture fits in the nanotechnological world.

### Steampunk

What is curious about these fantasies is that they are as backward socially as they are forward technologically. This curious fusion of high tech and retro culture already has its own name: steampunk.

In his novel "The Diamond Age," Mr. Stephenson constructs a society that uses gadgets like "matter compilers," which produce everything by rearranging atoms, and "smart paper," massively parallel computers the size and shape of a sheet of paper. And the

skyscrapers are made of replicated diamonds. But who inhabits these buildings? People that the eminent Victorian Jules Verne would not have found strange.

In Mr. Stephenson's vision, although traditions no longer exist, the society is stratified like a good Victorian society. Individuals who share core beliefs group themselves into loose confederations called phyles, which are stratified into a strictly hierarchical caste society. Chief among the phyles are the New Victorians. Their opposites are the lumpen proletariat, the thetes (a word that is taken from the name for the lowest class in ancient Athens).

Mr. Stephenson calls his cultural vision neo-tribalism, a world in which geopolitical groups have fragmented to the point where "states can be as small as a 7-Eleven or as small as an individual person's body." In other words, society internalizes the paradigm of nanotechnology, and fragments into self-organizing units.

"The great commonality we have with the Victorians is that they were going through an industrial revolution, and we are going through an information revolution," says Bruce Sterling, who imagined a computer caper set in the Victorian Age in "The Difference En-

gine," a novel he wrote with William Gibson. In Victorian England, Mr. Sterling said, peasants were driven "off the land to live in slums." "Now, we're driving people off the land to live in cyberspace."

### This Kills That

Maybe, though, the social conservatism of science fiction is rooted in the terror that a new technology will not only replace but also destroy the values of the past. When the Bible was printed, Victor Hugo lamented the inevitable death of the importance of cathedrals, like Notre Dame, and diminishment of the holistic faith of the illiterate: "Ceci tuera cela," ("This will kill that"). Viewing the giant dynamo of the Exposition of 1900 in Paris, Henry Adams mused that the cult of electrical power would replace the driving force of civilization, the adoration of the Virgin.

Paradoxically the fear that accompanies the fantasy of nanotechnology is not that the culture will be as stratified and fragmented as Victorian England, but that the new culture will be one that is unrecognizable to everyone alive today.

## New Enemies of the Corporate Welfare State

Continued From Page 1

about \$60 billion from 1996 to 2002, according to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities.

Eliminating the tax breaks that Mr. Clinton lists in the budget would raise about \$40 billion over five years.

Mr. Kasich put together a coalition that spans the political spectrum, from Ralph Nader to ardent conservationists to conservative political strategists.

They called a news conference last week to identify a dozen programs that they all agreed could be abolished at a saving to the Government of \$11.5 billion over five years.

### Kernels of Truth

"Every member of Congress wants to cut corporate welfare," said Stephen Moore, director of fiscal policy studies at the Cato Institute. But then he added ruefully, "It always turns out to be someone else's pork they want to cut."

That point was never more apparent than it was at the Senate Commerce Committee last week. Sam Brownback of Kansas was the only Senator who voted against the confirmation of William M. Daley as Secretary of Commerce.

Mr. Brownback, a Republican, said he did so because Mr. Daley had not sufficiently identified the corporate welfare he would flush from the Department.

But the Senator quickly noted that one program that should not be considered corporate welfare was the Government's subsidy of ethanol as a motor fuel, a program dear to the heart of the farmers who grow corn in Kansas.

The epitome of the scourge of corporate welfare — the equivalent, say, of the Cadillac-driving, vodka-swilling welfare queen that Ronald Reagan used to talk about — is probably the Agriculture Department's Market Access Program.

At a cost of about \$100 million a year, this program gives cash to companies to advertise exports of food and beverages. Taxpay-



On the hit list: a project to divert water for irrigation from the Animas River, shown during a drought last summer in Farmington, N.M.

ers have financed ads for, among others, Miller beer, Campbell's soup, Gallo wine, McDonald's burgers and Mars candy.

After a fight in Congress a couple of years ago to abolish the foreign marketing program, its appropriation was actually increased by 24 percent.

Among the lobbies that fight hard to retain the program is the Wine Institute, the trade association of California wineries. Exports of California wine, according to the Institute, have increased in the last 10 years to \$300 billion a year from \$25 billion.

### Welfare or Equity

The growth, said John De Luca, president of the Institute, resulted largely from the few million dollars a year that California wine companies receive from the Government for promotion. Those funds, he said, allow the California companies to compete in a market where European countries spend \$2 billion a year promoting their wines.

"Corporate welfare," Mr. De Luca said the

other day, "should be renamed competitive equity."

Willard Workman, a vice president of the United States Chamber of Commerce, had a more punchy put-down. "One man's corporate welfare," he said, "is another man's paycheck."

Even disinterested people can have trouble identifying whether Government subsidies amount to corporate welfare. Few, for example, would curtail biomedical research at the National Institutes of Health, even though pharmaceutical companies benefit handsomely.

Subsidies to airlines that maintain unprofitable air service to small towns obviously help the companies, but the benefit to the communities those airlines serve can hardly be discounted.

"Some of the programs may ring hollow on re-examination," said Robert D. Reischauer, former director of the Congressional Budget Office, "but each piece was designed to achieve some public objective."

Still, as a political matter, Representative

### The Public Good, or Pure Pork?

These are the 12 Federal programs identified last week by Representative John R. Kasich and his allies as corporate welfare programs that should be eliminated, with the estimated five-year savings.

#### Rural Utilities Services

Successor to the Rural Electrification Administration established during the New Deal to bring electricity to remote areas. Now provides subsidized loans to electric cooperatives. \$190 million.

#### Market Access Program

Subsidizes advertising by exporters of food and wine. \$347 million.

#### Animas-La Plata Project

A public works project in Colorado to divert water from the Animas and La Plata rivers to irrigate farmland. \$432 million over the life of project.

#### Pyroprocessing Program

Creates new fuel from the spent fuel of nuclear reactors. \$100 million.

#### Appalachian Regional Commission Roads Program

Builds roads in 13 Appalachian states. \$500 million.

#### Fossil Energy Research and Development

Energy Department program to develop new technology for oil, coal and natural gas companies. \$137 billion.

#### Timber Roads

Builds roads in national forests for timber companies and recreational users. \$100 million.

#### Clean Coal Technology

Subsidizes companies that develop technology for lowering coal emissions. \$500 million.

#### The Overseas Private Investment Corporation

Provides loans and insurance to American companies that invest in developing countries. \$281 million.

#### General Agreements to Borrow

Part of the International Monetary Fund. Provides money in international economic emergencies (for example, when a country is on the verge of default). \$3.5 billion.

#### Enhanced Structural Adjustment Facility

An I.M.F. low-interest loan program for developing countries. \$150 million.

#### Highway Demonstration Projects

Road repair and construction projects specifically requested by individual lawmakers. \$4 billion.

Kasich, Senator McCain and the other Republicans who talk about corporate welfare have obviously struck a clear chord. In their view, a party that is so grounded in Wall Street and in the Chamber of Commerce is too limited.

John J. Pitney, a professor of government at Claremont-McKenna College in California

and an expert on the recent history of the Republican Party, put the case this way: "If the Republicans are going to be the opponent of big government, they've got to oppose it even when the beneficiaries are affluent. There is nothing more important to the Republican Party than to shed the image of being the party of the weakly."

AP Photo/John J. Pitney



## The World

# Biko's Case Now Offers Justice From a Travesty

By JOHN F. BURNS

MANY of those who sat in the old synagogue in Pretoria nearly 20 years ago, when it served briefly as one of apartheid's most infamous courtrooms, must have paused at the news from South Africa last week. According to the country's Truth and Reconciliation Commission, five white security officers involved in the detention and killing of the black leader Steve Biko in 1977 have indicated a readiness to admit their part in his death, and begun the process of applying for amnesty for their crimes.

South Africa is not the only place where a seemingly impregnable political system has crumbled in recent years. But there can be few places where the victors and the vanquished of the old order meet on such improbably altered terms. Nearly three years of black-led government under the presidency of Nelson Mandela, apartheid's most famous political prisoner, have accustomed the world to surprising things, but few have been quite so arresting as the prospect of learning, from the men who killed him, what really happened to Mr. Biko.

The men who are now petitioners before the truth commission, including Col. Harold Snyman, who oversaw the interrogation of Mr. Biko, showed no remorse 20 years ago at the inquest into his death from brain injuries in a Pretoria prison cell. During the two-week hearing, they strutted about in the manner of men above the law. They joked while waiting to take the witness stand, they openly coordinated their accounts of how Mr. Biko sustained his injuries (and still offered versions that conflicted), and they answered contemptuously when cross-questioned by the Biko family's lawyers.

It is a different matter now. Lawyers for the five men have said their clients are ready to make a clean breast of their roles in Mr. Biko's death, thus meeting, they hope, the condition the truth commission has set for giving amnesty to perpetrators of apartheid-era crimes. Since there is no guarantee that the amnesty will be granted, and thus it is possible that the men could still be prosecuted for murder, it remains to be seen whether they will discard the tissue of evasions, half-truths and

John F. Burns, New Delhi bureau chief of The New York Times, covered South Africa for The Times in 1977.

lies that made absurdist theater of the inquest.

But whatever the men may admit or deny, they will be adding in some measure to one of the most important chapters in the fall of apartheid. It was so, in the main, because of the miserable way in which Mr. Biko died, and the shock this administered to opinion in South Africa and the world. But it was also a turning point because it removed a man who many thought might have one day challenged Mr. Mandela for the leadership of blacks in South Africa, or perhaps succeeded him.

WHEN he died, at the age of 30, Mr. Biko was the country's most important young black leader, and something of a firebrand in the anti-apartheid struggle.

Only days before his arrest, he told this reporter that blacks would one day move out of their townships and into white suburbs, "destroying and burning" along the way. This appeared to put him and his black-consciousness movement on a more radical track than Mr. Mandela and the African National Congress, the older resistance group now in power. But how much difference this might have made in the compromises Mr. Mandela made with whites to secure black rule can never be known, since Mr. Biko's killers made sure he had no chance to settle into mellow middle age.

What is sure is that Mr. Biko's death speeded apartheid's end. Not since the 1960 police massacre of 62 protesters in Sharpeville had an incident so galvanized black opposition. And because the murder laid bare the viciousness at the heart of white rule, it aroused the West's conscience as nothing before. Within weeks, the United States, turning from dialogue, adopted its first trade and financial sanctions against Pretoria.

Ironically, it was the South African regime's respect for the forms of law — courts, lawyers, open testimony designed to signal that this was still a Western society — that helped expose how deeply it was flouting the core ideas of Western justice itself. Although questioning by the Biko family's lead counsel, Sydney W. Kentridge, devastated the policemen's increasingly fantastic attempts to explain away Mr. Biko's death, the verdict, by a magistrate who was a civil servant within the apartheid regime, was foreordained.

Initially, the Government said that Mr. Biko had



A museum exhibit in Pretoria includes a replica of Steven Biko's body as it was found in his prison cell in September 1977. Five ex-officers are now willing to admit their part in his death in return for amnesty.

starved himself to death. Days later, it adjusted to post-mortem evidence of brain injuries by saying he had intentionally banged his head on a wall. At the inquest, the policemen claimed that Mr. Biko, enraged when shown statements by fellow black leaders that purportedly implicated him in terrorist activities, had attacked them with a chair, then suffered head injuries in a fall.

But none of the shifting accounts disguised the brutal indignities of the affair. At the inquest, the policemen admitted keeping Mr. Biko naked in a cell for 18 days, and denying his transfer to a hospital even after Government doctors detected brain damage. When Mr. Biko was foaming at the mouth and incoherent, he was placed naked in the rear of a Land Rover and driven 700 miles across the country from Port Elizabeth. In Pretoria, he was dumped into a prison cell, still naked, and left to die.

Almost as frightening was the Alice-in-Wonderland world of apartheid the Biko affair exposed. For those at the pinnacle of white power, as much as for those, like the policemen, who did the dirty work necessary to uphold the system, the cost of admitting the truth had become too great, since it involved acknowledging the moral bankruptcy of their power. Instead, they adopted whatever tortured version of reality was least troubling.

Nobody better demonstrated this than James T. Kruger, Justice and Police Minister at the time. It was he who told a congress of the ruling National Party that he supported Mr. Biko's right to "starve himself to death." Later, after Mr. Biko's brain injuries were disclosed, Mr. Kruger summoned this reporter to his office, brewed a pot of tea, walked over to the door frame and banged his head. "This is what he did, just to embarrass us," he said. Farcical as it seemed, Mr. Kruger gave every sign of believing this.

THE fact that the truth has caught up with Mr. Biko's killers may be small consolation to Mr. Biko's family and friends, who have demanded they be tried. Still, the lessons of the affair may give some comfort elsewhere. In Bosnia, victim of another murderous ideology, Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic, the Serbian overlords of "ethnic cleansing" between 1992 and 1995, have been as arrogant in their presumptions of impunity as the practitioners of apartheid ever were. Perhaps, someday, history's wheel will turn for them, too, offering a measure of redress to the numberless victims of their obsessions.

## Algeria Is Burning

# A Chance to Try to End an Agony

By ROGER COHEN

JANUARY was the cruellest month in Algeria. Cruel in its violence, including a car-bombing that killed 42 people in central Algiers; cruel in the cynicism of the assassination of Abdelhak Benhamouda, an influential union leader who had wanted to forge a new political party. And cruel, above all, for the promise of yet more killing that was contained in a ranting speech by the President in which he blamed foreign plots for all of Algeria's woes and vowed to "eradicate" the terrorists.

The Algerian civil war, which pits a ruthless military-backed government against often barbaric Islamic guerrillas, is five years old. It has become part of the background noise of world affairs, rumbling on like Kurdish clashes but rarely registering on the world's consciousness — that is, its television screens.

The conflict began when an election that was on the verge of bringing political Islam to power was canceled by the military in January 1992. It has rendered Algerian democracy — and hopes that a stable political center could form — stillborn.

Hocine Ait Ahmed, an opposition leader, recently spoke of a "Berlin wall" around the war, evoking how the Algerian dreams of the 1980's have died amid general indifference. That wall has been composed of many elements: the secrecy of Algeria's rulers, known simply as "le Pouvoir" or "the Power"; the intractability of a murky conflict; Western diplomatic inertia in a country where the choices appear particularly delicate, and the fact that Algeria's oil and natural gas have kept flowing to American and European companies.

But as the recent violence suggests, the Algerian problem is festering to the point where it may prove harder to ignore. Its threat, just south of France, is clear: spreading Islamic militancy, a spillover of terrorism, a flood of refugees and the disruption of large oil and natural-gas supplies (into which American investment pours).

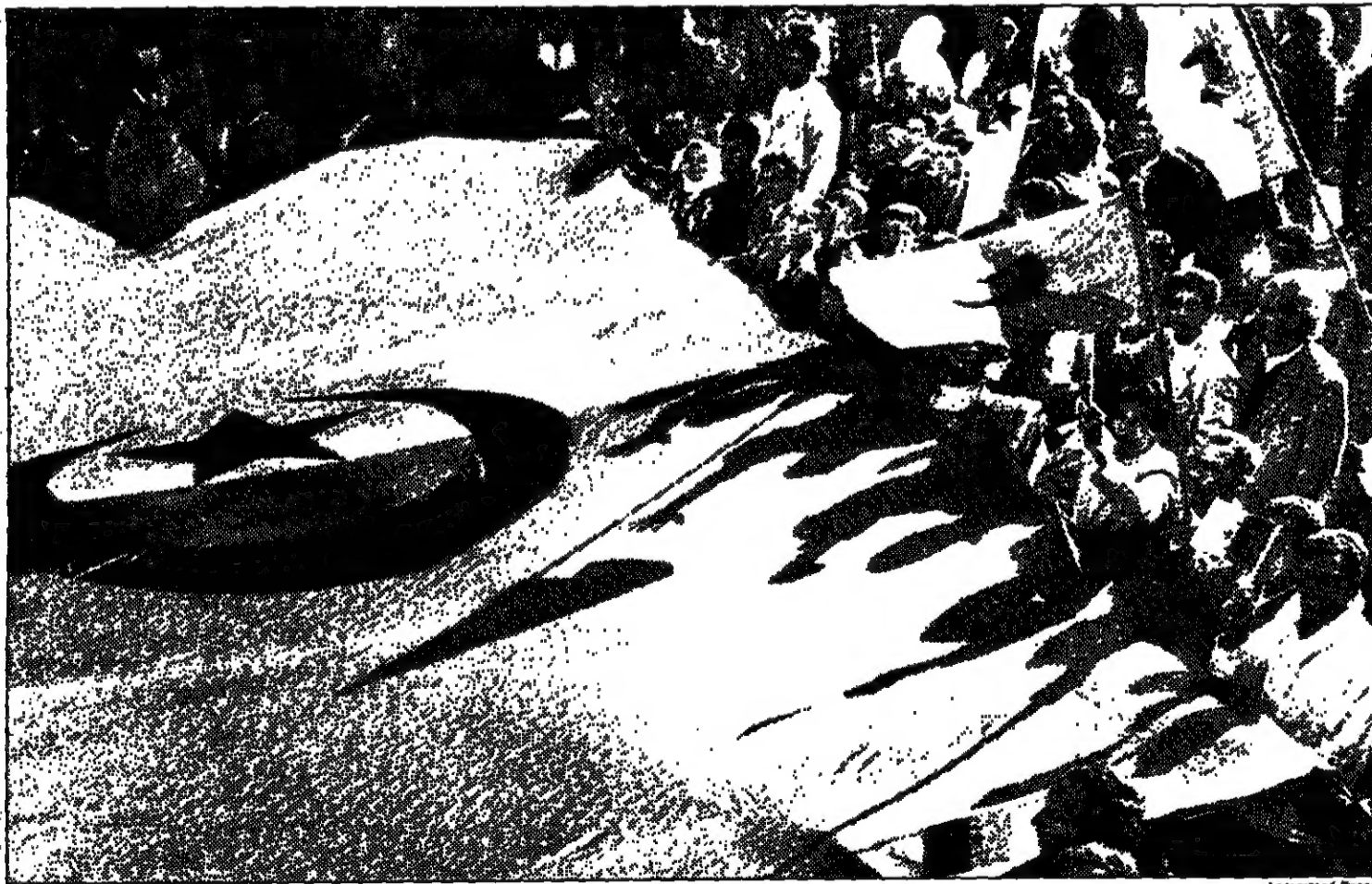
## A Hint of Opportunity

But if this is a moment of crisis it may also be a moment when the West, whose options seem otherwise limited, could put some pressure on Algeria's leaders to restore a hope of democracy.

Within the next few months, the country is due to hold its first parliamentary elections since the cancellation of the 1992 poll that nearly brought the Islamic Salvation Front to power. The party had brandished slogans like "Islam is the solution" to protest the corruption and economic mismanagement of Algeria's military-dominated regime. When the election was canceled, the party split into armed factions pursuing insurrection and a more moderate wing.

How — and indeed whether — the new elections are held will test Algeria's direction and the West's readiness to encourage a democratic solution there. Breaking a long, and increasingly eerie, silence, French politicians of the left and right last week called for France to act.

Lionel Jospin, the Socialist leader, said France could no longer provide "blind support" to President Liamine Zeroual's Govern-



On Jan. 29, 1995, thousands marched in Algiers to support the Government's promise to hold new elections, which have yet to be held.

ment. And Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, a former President, said the Islamic Salvation Front, now banned, should be allowed to participate in the election.

The United States has maintained a determinedly low profile on Algeria since the war began. But tension between America and France over Algeria has been easing. French feelings that the Clinton Administration had been too conciliatory toward the Islamic Salvation Front have changed since the arrest last year of Anwar Raddam, a prominent party member, in America.

So a joint French-American initiative is technically possible, combining French economic leverage over Mr. Zeroual (France grants more than \$1 billion annually to Algeria in subsidized loans) with the Clinton Administration's greater access to the Islamic Salvation Front.

Opening the way for meaningful elections might entail a call on Mr. Zeroual to approach all parties, including the Islamic Salvation Front, in order to hammer out certain principles: the rejection of violence, respect for human rights, the elimination of torture, a commitment to the alternation of power through universal suffrage, a free press and respect for Algeria's Arab and Berber culture, the European Union's aid, debt relief, World Bank loans and the like, could all be used as carrots and sticks.

But huge difficulties remain, all of them illustrated by the events of the last month. Mr. Zeroual's speech on Jan. 24 — in which he raged against "criminals, traitors and mercenaries manipulated by external circles" — was a textbook study in the closed mentality



A bodyguard slain last week along with the labor leader Abdelhak Benhamouda.

of Algeria's rulers. The very notion of open dialogue is generally foreign to them. In the speech, Mr. Zeroual ominously neglected to set a date for the new elections.

The murder last week of Abdelhak Benhamouda was equally ominous. A prominent 55-year-old union leader and a determined opponent of Islamic fundamentalism, Mr. Benhamouda had been preparing to form a centrist political party. His last words to a friend, as

reported in Algiers, were, "Kamel, my friend, they have betrayed us." One problem in Algeria is always to know who is killing whom.

These words — and the efficiency of his killing in central Algiers — were widely seen as suggesting that the murder was the work of rival clans within "le Pouvoir," rather than of Islamic guerrillas.

Finally, the barbarity of the car-bombings, throat slittings and other killings that have swept Algiers and towns nearby since the Muslim holy month of Ramadan started on Jan. 10 have illustrated, once again, the unconscionable methods of the Islamic Salvation Front. It is unclear to what extent the Front itself — its leaders dead, arrested or abroad — is still a coherent political force.

Still, the frustrated, largely silenced democratic yearnings of a broad Algerian center exist and could be buttressed by Western diplomacy. Those yearnings, and economic frustration, propelled people into the streets of Algiers in the late 1980's to push for democracy, at the same time as people in Central Europe protested against their own dictators and Marxist economic mismanagement.

The Algerian democratic movement went nowhere. The country remains torn by latent ethnic tensions (a Berber minority represents perhaps a third of the population), suffers from decades of official corruption and is unsure what to make of its long French colonial history. It still seeks its true identity. The democratic opening that began in 1988 was largely about finding one. Still today, it appears, as Mr. Jospin said, that "democracy, in the end, is the only road to peace."

## Africa's Culture War

Continued From Page 1

into the bush known as Bongo — a sort of finishing school run exclusively by women in which one generation passed on its knowledge of womanhood to the next. Over time, however, such retreats withered into gatherings lasting only a few days, in which traditional teachings faded, leaving the rite of genital mutilation as an exaggerated centerpiece of what was once a rich rite of passage.

"We have to let them know that we are not coming to take something away from them," Mrs. Bangura said. "We could begin by telling women that Bongo has been trivialized by reducing it to a circumcision ceremony. Instead, the institution could be modernized by teaching abstinence or sexual education to young girls."

Then again, different approaches to changing local customs in Africa have been tried across centuries. Competing for converts, many Protestant sects roundly denounced traditional African religious rites as the

## Where life has long been bleak, harsh rituals survive.

work of the devil. Roman Catholics, meanwhile, if no less accepting of animist customs, tended to stress their own teachings and spend far less energy castigating Africans for their beliefs.

Looking back at the limited success of either approach, it's not unreasonable to conclude that by itself neither would get very far today. Without education for all and a rise in living standards neither new laws nor angry sermons, like those delivered by Mr. Wisdom at his bamboo-walled church here, will make much difference.

In the Ghanaian coastal village of Telle, where ritual slavery is still practiced, the wizened men who gather daily in the cooling air of late afternoon seemed to make this point over and over when asked how they felt about a measure being debated in Parliament aimed at wiping out the practice.

"Our customs go back a very long way and they are what we are comfortable with," one said, exasperated by an outsider's questions. "Call us pagans, but we will die happy with the way we are."



# The Nation

## State of the Speech: Reading Between the Lines

By ALISON MITCHELL

**R**EMEMBER how Bill Clinton electrified a joint session of Congress in 1993 by brandishing a prototype of a national health care card and calling for "health care that can never be taken away, health care that is always there?"

That speech still stands as one of the most impressive formal addresses of his Presidency. And perhaps it was no accident that Mr. Clinton could hold the Congress in his sway even though he was winging it for seven minutes as the wrong text scrolled across the Teleprompter. But he might not be as dramatic Tuesday when he delivers his State of the Union address.

For Mr. Clinton has a curious split personality when it comes to oratory. Speaking extemporaneously, he can be arresting, eloquent and amusing. He has had moments of self-revelation: at a recent news conference, he said that all those officials who had pushed campaign fund-raising to the limits had to be held accountable "even if we did it because we thought we had to do it to survive or to just keep up."

Sometimes his turns of phrase twang with a delicious backwoodsness. During the campaign, he said of the Republican budget proposal: "It is their dog. And it was a mangy old dog, and that's why I vetoed that dog."



President Clinton about to give his second inaugural address, after making last-minute changes. His informal speeches often are considered more empathetic.

Clinton's most memorable addresses, unlike the State of the Union, are off-the-cuff.

And at the pulpit of a church, Mr. Clinton can burn with a preacher's passion that rivals the Rev. Jesse Jackson's.

But put this President in the most stately settings of government with a written text and a Teleprompter and his eloquence sometimes fades. Connectedness is the key to his best oratory, his aides say. Mr. Clinton needs the synergy of the crowd; he needs to feel people's enthusiasm or their pain.

Without it, his empathy diminishes and his addresses can become less art than architecture, stolid and carefully constructed. This is not for lack of work and resources. These formal addresses go through multiple drafts, with Mr. Clinton scrawling his own words across prepared texts or dictating new ideas to his speechwriters. He reads widely in preparation and takes cues from polls. The result can sometimes be laundry lists of initiatives and too many themes at once. He hews to predictable adjectives and phrases that exude a comforting optimism but are less than provocative.

Mr. Clinton's inaugural address last month was called workaday by political pundits. He did take risks by warning that the divide of race is "America's constant curse." He also spoke across the years to Ronald Reagan's view on the role of government. "Govern-

ment," Mr. Clinton said, "is not the problem."

But each time the President's speech might have soared, he switched themes, many of which were sounded throughout the campaign. In his wake were would-be catch phrases like a "new government for a new century" or "a land of new promise" or a "bright new prospect in world affairs."

On Tuesday, Mr. Clinton delivers the annual State of the Union Address, which sets out a President's legislative agenda before both Congress and a national television audience. It is regarded as a problematic speech. Thomas Jefferson flatly refused to give one.

"If you imagine political rhetoric as a big broad river like the Mississippi," said Peggy Noonan, one of Mr. Reagan's speechwriters, "an inaugural address is a big sleek sloop, a real dream boat." But a State of the Union, she added, "is a big, old gray tugboat weighed down with cargo. You stop and look at it as it goes by, and sometimes you're marvelously impressed that it didn't sink."

Yet during his first two State of the Union addresses, Mr. Clinton had to his advantage the edge that comes with a new President, the drama of change and his audacious plan for comprehensive health care coverage. He also had a Democratic Congress to cheer him on, which gave him that connection to his audience that evaporated when the Republicans seized control of Congress in 1994.

In 1995, Mr. Clinton scrambled to remake his image

and give the public what it wanted from him. Dick Morris, the President's former political strategist, wrote in his recent book that he conducted a poll with 259 questions in preparation for that State of the Union speech. As a result, Mr. Clinton abandoned his sweeping ideas, adopted smaller, more measured steps and returned to the political center. The 81-minute speech was called wandering by the pundits but pleased the public.

### A Bridge That Held

Last year Mr. Clinton showed more confidence: he declared that "the era of big government is over" and sounded the family values themes that became central to his bid for re-election.

Only after the President's 1996 campaign ended did his aides admit how much they sample public opinion in crafting Mr. Clinton's language — acknowledging that they had poll-tested the much-repeated "bridge to the 21st century" to see if the public preferred the phrase over "bridge to the year 2000" or "bridge to the next four years." These techniques may not produce inspirational rhetoric, but apparently they work: Mr. Clinton's recent approval ratings are the highest they have ever been.

Mr. Clinton's aides, preparing for Tuesday, have learned what variables work in his favor. The topic, of course, can make the difference. On an issue that moves Mr. Clinton, like America's racial divisions, he is almost always eloquent. The President is a night person; not an

early riser, and so he is more inspirational in evening speeches. His delivery of a formal speech is better if he has a finished text for several days to practice on in the family theater in the White House.

And only after the President has scribbled widely across the text is he comfortable with it. "The most interesting thing with him and these big speeches," said Mandy Gruenwald, a former media adviser to Mr. Clinton, "is that it isn't until he goes through the process of writing the speech that he knows exactly what he thinks. Some of his best speeches have come because he has really thought through the issue and through the process of writing and rewriting and rewriting he decided what he wants to say."

Still, there are those who long for Mr. Clinton to show the same spark that comes when he is speaking off the cuff. "I would like to see President Clinton, sometime before he's through these four years, demonstrate all his gifts to the maximum," said Mario M. Cuomo, the former New York Governor. "That would require him to throw off any inhibition about saying too much or inhibition about getting into political trouble. I'd love to hear him announcing, 'I'll never run again for public office. I'll never have another chance to tell you what I really believe.'"

As Mr. Clinton crafted his State of the Union message last week, one of his aides daydreamed. "If we were brave at heart," he said, "we would simply give him an outline and say go out there and draw on this."

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THE JERUSALEM POST

## ECONOMY

## Too Much Info, Not Enough Space

By MARK LANDLER

**T**HE BATTLE for Wall Street's desktops has always been fierce. Now the jostling among the major competitors has become so intense that it is hard to tell who's winning.

The short answer: no one. Michael R. Bloomberg, the brash former stock trader who started Bloomberg L.P. in 1981 and turned it into the industry's hottest financial-data company, seems on top of the world. People familiar with Mr. Bloomberg said that 18 months ago, he even approached Dow Jones & Company, the venerable publisher of The Wall Street Journal, about a merger.

Although the board of Dow Jones rebuffed Mr. Bloomberg's overture, the company's executives may regret not having a provocateur like him around. Dow Jones has been struggling to fix its own financial data service, Dow Jones Telerate, which is technologically inferior and has been steadily losing market share to both Bloomberg and Reuters.

But if Mr. Bloomberg and his squad, desktop machines are the toast of many on Wall Street, he has had his share of setbacks, too. Executives at Merrill Lynch & Company, which reduced its 30 percent stake in Bloomberg L.P. to 20 percent in December, said he was passed over recently when the bank decided to install 25,000 new terminals for its army of retail brokers. Instead of giving Bloomberg the juicy contract, Merrill Lynch is developing its own network of linked personal computers. But the firm's executives stressed that the sale of a third of its equity stake was no reflection on Mr. Bloomberg.

Even Reuters Holdings P.L.C., the doyen of the financial information market, has taken its lumps. The 146-year-old British company virtually invented this business and it still has more than twice as many customers as Telerate and nearly five times more than Bloomberg. But it has been struggling to sell its new flagship terminal, the Reuters 3000, because it has proved difficult for traders, bankers and analysts to integrate the new product with their existing data services.

The problem for all these companies is that the ground is shifting beneath them. After years of robust growth fueled by one of the greatest bull markets in history, the \$6.5 billion financial information business has reached a crossroads. The emergence of the Internet as a vast information pipeline is calling into question the future of companies that feed data to desktop boxes over closed, proprietary networks.

"The whole on-line phenomenon has changed this business dramatically," said Michael J. Wolf, the partner in charge of the media and communications practice at Booz Allen & Hamilton, the management consultants. "In the long run, people won't want to have more than one box on their desk."

Those little boxes have been handsome money-makers. The companies charge anywhere from \$200 a month for a bare-bones data feed to \$1,140 a month for a fully equipped Bloomberg machine. And with multiyear contracts, these services are almost like annuities for the providers.

But what has historically been a battle by the makers of boxes to gain real estate in trading rooms and brokerage firms is now becoming a race to develop an array of information services — stock quotes, ana-

lytical tools, news reports and the like — that are flexible enough to be delivered to a customer's PC in any number of combinations.

"You get the feeling that the Internet is leaving Bloomberg behind, just like Bloomberg left Quotron behind," said John L. Sabre, a managing director at IdoSuez Capital, referring to the ill-fated stock-quote machine that Citicorp sold off to Reuters in 1994 at a huge loss. Mr. Sabre still gets real-time financial information at work, but now he gets it over a PC that runs Windows software rather than from one of the Big Three.

Reuters, Telerate and Bloomberg are all grappling with the changes in the industry, but Telerate has felt the sting most deeply. The Dow Jones financial information services division, which consists of Telerate and the Dow Jones News Service, reported a 21 percent decline in its 1996 operating income, to \$156 million, on revenues of \$980 million.

Edward J. Atorino, an analyst at Oppenheimer & Company, estimated that Telerate's operating margins dropped from 20.5 percent in 1995 to 15.9 percent in 1996, and would fall to almost zero in 1997. By contrast, he said, Reuters routinely rolls up margins of more than 20 percent.

Telerate's historic strength has been its real-time price data on government bonds. Through its exclusive arrangement with Cantor Fitzgerald, a leading bond broker, Telerate is still viewed as the place to go for information on Treasury bills. But several analysts said Telerate was becoming outmoded in other, faster-growing areas, like transactions.

Reuters, for example, allows customers to trade stocks and make foreign currency exchanges from their keyboards.

And Telerate also never developed the sophisticated analytical software of Bloomberg, which enables users to create their own complex financial models.

Part of this is simply a matter of inadequate financial support by Dow Jones. Reuters spent roughly \$300 million on research and development in 1995, while Telerate spent only about \$33 million. Mr. Bloomberg says his company spends some \$250 million annually on research and development.

Still, when Dow Jones announced on Jan. 20 that it would spend \$650 million over three years to retool Telerate, its shares went into a stomach-churning swoon and still have not fully recovered. Some shareholders believe that Telerate has fallen so far behind that Dow Jones would be better off to cut its losses and exit the business.

Among that group are three outspoken money managers — Michael F. Price of Franklin Mutual Fund Advisors and James J. Cramer of Cramer Berkowitz & Company — who recently amassed stakes in Dow Jones when the price plunged. Both are clamoring for the company not to pour more money into Telerate. "If you can't get me to use Telerate — and I'm a machine junkie — you're not going to get anybody else," said Mr. Cramer, whose hedge fund bought 1.1 million shares of Dow Jones earlier this year. Instead, he uses four other smaller suppliers.

Another money manager, Daniel Shuchman of Gotham Partners, noted that in a Dow Jones Government filing in 1989, the company projected that Telerate would generate \$544 million in operating cash flow by 1995. In fact, he said, analysts estimate that the unit generated only \$187 million that year. "It really gives you a lot of pause to lightly endorse spending another \$650 million on the business," Mr. Shuchman said.

Executives at Dow Jones say Telerate is not a lost cause. Kenneth L. Burenga, the president of Dow Jones, said the company would benefit from the underlying growth of the financial information industry, which he estimated at 7 percent a year. Mr. Burenga, who was asked by Peter R. Karu, the chairman of Dow Jones, to take direct control of Telerate six months ago, also said his \$650 million rescue plan would put Telerate back on even footing with Bloomberg and Reuters. "When things start to happen, perhaps some of these critics will re-evaluate their positions," he said.

Mr. Burenga has a two-pronged plan. First, he intends to gather the historical data that have made Bloomberg so popular among traders and money managers. Then, he wants to replace Telerate's existing technology — which transmits pages of data to the screens of Telerate work stations — with an Internet-based system that will send information over a private network to customers' PCs.

In essence, Mr. Burenga wants to leapfrog over Bloomberg and Reuters by creating a system that boasts all the features of the other services, but also has an entirely open technology that would allow customers to receive Telerate's news and data, no matter what terminals they used.

To do that, Mr. Burenga is trying to engineer a radical change in the company culture. Instead of merely shuttling senior

editorial executives from The Wall Street Journal to oversee the unit, Mr. Burenga is recruiting outside Dow Jones for top marketing and technology executives.

"I don't want to assign blame here," said Mr. Burenga. "The business wasn't perfect when we bought it. We had to do some work on it, and we chose the best people at the time to do that work."

Now Mr. Burenga says he is seeking people with expertise in the financial services industry to "create something that has the best resources from Dow Jones, the best resources from Telerate, and the best resources from outside."

It is an extraordinarily lofty goal, according to analysts and rival executives. In this industry, said Peter Job, the chief executive of Reuters, "\$650 million doesn't go very far."

Reuters, for example, spent \$100 million over three years just to collect a vast warehouse of historical data to compete with Bloomberg. That effort, called Project Armstrong after the astronaut Neil Armstrong, the first man on the moon, ended last year. And Reuters poured the data into the Reuters 3000, which was intended to capture the Bloomberg market.

Yet despite its grand scale, the project has not helped the sales of the Reuters 3000, according to Andrew P. Delaney, the senior vice president of Waters Information Services, a market research firm that tracks the financial data business. The 3000, which was introduced in June, is supposed to be added to existing Reuters 2000 terminals as a software upgrade. But Mr. Delaney said the graft was proving technologically difficult.

Mr. Job said Reuters sold about 9,000 units and installed 1,000 in the first six months of its availability. But Mr. Delaney noted that the 9,000 represented only a very small portion of Reuters subscribers.

Like Telerate, Reuters is known for its commanding position in one corner of the financial world: in its case, the foreign currency market. Analysts estimate that Reuters has more than 60 percent of the market for supplying real-time currency price data.

But the currency markets are vulnerable to a slowdown, particularly in Europe, where the adoption of common European currency could wipe out 8 percent of the volume of currency trading there. As a result, Mr. Job is rushing to spread the company's bets — investing heavily to build up Reuters in the equity and fixed-income markets.

In its current issue, Business Week reported that there were rumors that Reuters had even approached Dow Jones's controlling shareholders about a potential merger. Reuters declined to comment, while a Dow Jones spokesman described the report as "nonsense."

Reuters has also been aggressive in turning its global network into a trading market. The company's Instinet service, which handles stock trades electronically, is its fastest-growing service, with revenue jumping 51 percent, to \$262 million, in the first six months of 1996. Although Instinet has been around for years, Mr. Delaney said it recently achieved a critical mass of users seeking to trade electronically, which has accelerated its growth.

Despite such successes, Mr. Job acknowledged that Reuters still had to make its services more open. "Our goal is to get onto a client's network, allow him to plug his own data into our information and then link him to a source where he can do a transaction," he said. "We still have a ways to go."

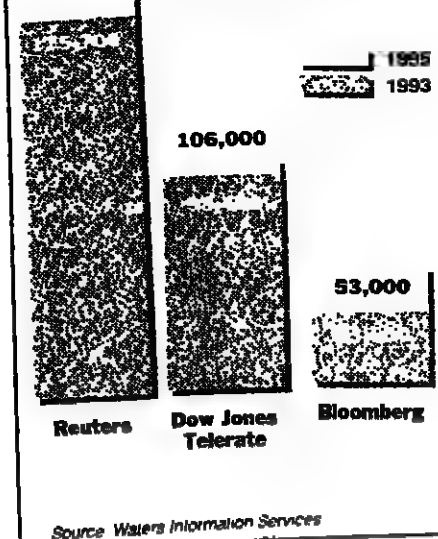
Perhaps no one has further to go toward the goal of open technology than Michael Bloomberg. Until very recently, his company had the most closed system of the three leading providers. Although Mr. Bloomberg introduced a version of his service last year that runs on Unix- and Windows-based computer networks, analysts said the Open Bloomberg still required users to install proprietary technology from Bloomberg.

So far, Bloomberg's exclusivity has not stunted its growth. The number of installed Bloomberg machines grew 61 percent from 1993 to 1995, compared with 45 percent for Reuters and 8 percent for Telerate. Mr. Bloomberg said he had about 70,000 customers paying \$1,140 a month for his boxes, which would give him annual revenue of nearly \$1 billion. Mr. Bloomberg would not provide cash-flow or profit figures, but several analysts said the company was probably in the black — though not as profitable as Reuters.

Wall Street traders said that Bloomberg's superior data and analytical tools compensated for the fact that most users receive Bloomberg's data on its distinctive, boxy machine. Until now, Mr. Bloomberg has used assiduous customer service and relentless marketing to turn his proprietary technology into an advantage. Having a Bloomberg on your desk has become almost a totem on Wall Street — like owning a desktop BMW.

## A Three-Way Race

The number of screens installed around the world for each of the three major financial data companies.



Source: Waters Information Services

"I don't rank high enough, nor do I trade enough bonds, to have my own Bloomberg," said Bill Dailey, an equity sales trader at Montgomery Securities in Boston. He wishes it were otherwise. In addition to its financial data, Bloomberg offers frequently updated sports scores, Mr. Dailey said. Bloomberg even allows users to order shirts from Brooks Brothers over the network.

Mr. Bloomberg waves away questions about open-versus-closed technology. He said the Internet was not yet secure enough or fast enough to handle electronic trading. And many clients still prefer Bloomberg's proprietary system for complex financial calculations, he said.

Still, there are signs that Mr. Bloomberg cannot afford to turn his back on the Internet forever. Merrill Lynch is just one of several firms that are building their own networks by stringing together PCs in private networks and buying their data from outside suppliers. That arrangement is far cheaper than leasing 25,000 boxes from Bloomberg, even though Merrill — as part-owner — would effectively be getting a discount.

As one senior Merrill banker put it, "Why do our brokers need a Rolls-Royce when they can use a Chevy?"

At the Mariner Investment Group, the traders now use their own PCs equipped with two Microsoft operating programs, Windows NT and Microsoft Excel. Mariner, a small New York hedge fund, buys its pricing data from an outside supplier, S.P. Comstock, which delivers the numbers directly to the PC screens.

Mr. Bloomberg says he has been listening to these gloom-and-doom outlooks for years, but Bloomberg just keeps on growing. He acknowledged that if the market crashed, the sales of his machines would fall, too. But he said his rich data and analytical services made him less vulnerable than other financial information providers to a slowdown.

If Bloomberg is hitting a wall in its growth, the ebullient founder is not letting on. Last month, he bought back one-third of Merrill Lynch's 30 percent stake in the company for \$200 million. At that price, he and Merrill are valuing the private company at \$2 billion.

Executives at Merrill Lynch said the firm simply felt it was time to cash out part of its investment. Based on its original investment of \$30 million in 1983, Merrill has already earned back nearly six times its money, and still owns 20 percent of a valuable property.

Taking Bloomberg public would further enhance that return, since analysts said the company would receive a far richer multiple as a public company. But Mr. Bloomberg has steadfastly refused to do so.

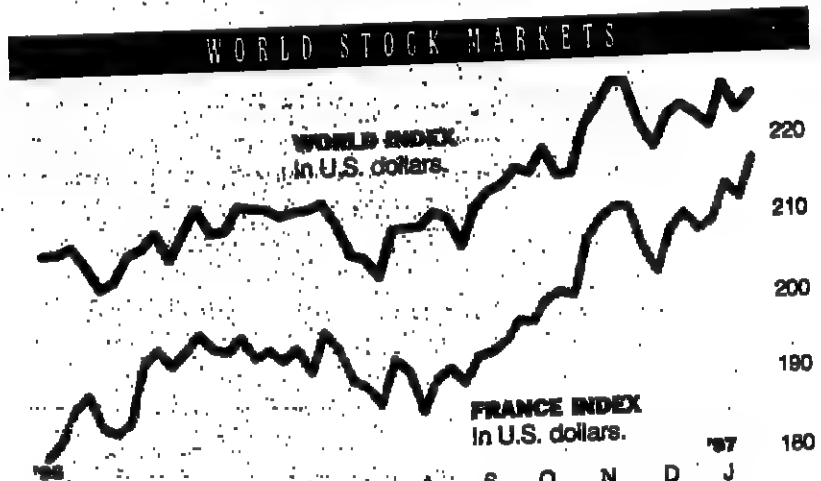
"The only difference if we were public is that when the Forbes 400 came out, I would be worth \$10 billion instead of \$1 billion," he said dismissively.

Mr. Bloomberg's meteoric success is changing his life in other ways, though, raising questions about whether he is keeping his eye on the business.

He recently donated \$55 million to his alma mater, Johns Hopkins University, where he is also chairman of the board. And he jetted off to the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, last Thursday, where he was scheduled to appear on a panel with Andrew S. Grove, the chief executive of Intel.

Despite his leanness about the Internet, Mr. Bloomberg recognizes he cannot completely buck the on-line tide. Before leaving for Davos, he showed off his laptop computer, which was programmed to receive news and data from Bloomberg directly via the Internet.

Has this apostle of closed systems finally gotten religion? Not really. The Internet service is available only as an adjunct to the regular service. To get it, you still have to lease one of Bloomberg's familiar boxes.



Prepared by Goldman, Sachs & Co. using data derived from the Financial Times/Standard & Poor's Actuaries World Indices, a measure of stock market performance. The FT indices are compiled jointly by The Financial Times Limited, Goldman, Sachs & Co. and Standard & Poor's, in conjunction with the Institute of Actuaries and Faculty of Actuaries.

Country	PERFORMANCE IN U.S. DOLLARS					IN LOCAL CURR.				
	Index	Week % Chg.	Week Rank	YTD % Chg.	YTD Rank	Index	Week % Chg.	Week Rank	YTD % Chg.	YTD Rank
Australia	212.98	-1.3	26	-4.0	26	185.82	0.0			
Austria	183.05	-1.2	25	-3.6	25	155.77	2.5			
Belgium	232.04	-0.6	21	-1.9	15	193.07	8.2			
Brazil	212.37	2.6	1	12.0	2	149	408.74	12.7		
Britain	274.66	-0.5	19	-3.0	23	3.74	254.09	3.6		
Canada	199.27	1.5	9	5.0	8	1.88	194.53	3.2		
Denmark	359.91	2.2	4	2.3	13	1.44	305.69	8.3		
Finland	260.97	0.9	12	8.2	6	1.85	199.08	8.3		
France	188.34	0.3	15	-0.9	20	1.55	180.36	5.3		
Germany	188.34	0.3	15	-0.9	20	1.55	180.36	5.3		
Hong Kong	481.48	-1.1	23	-3.1	24	3.17	488.95	9.3		
Indonesia	248.04	2.0	6	8.7	4	1.47	361.62	5.9		
Ireland	327.22	2.0	5	-0.5	19	3.17	289.87	19.1		
Italy	93.94	-1.5	27	-12.5	1	1.85	112.92	19.1		
Japan	114.67	-0.4	17	-11.2	28	0.88	88.00	1.9		
Malaysia	624.54	-0.6	20	3.5	11	1.04	597.79	1.9		
Mexico	1,326.53	-0.5	18	-8.7	3	0.97	11,341.83	8.0		
Netherlands	330.34	-0.4	16	-1.7	21	2.67	277.18	4.4		
New Zealand	91.41	-1.2	24	-0.4	18	3.96	70.50	2.2		
Norway	317.24	1.6	8	7.3	5	1.80	279.26	9.0		
Philippines	211.50	1.3	10	3.9	10	0.62	277.73	4.1		
Singapore	436.54	0.4	14	4.0	9	0.97	283.19	4.8		
South Africa	326.54	1.0	11	2.2	14	2.50	324.92	-0.2		
Spain	215.99	-0.8	22	-1.7	22	2.76	226.71	4.7		
Sweden	427.54	0.7	13	1.3	17	1.94	457.70	7.3		
Switzerland	245.17	2.4	2	2.8	12	1.34	216.32	8.9		
Thailand	88.58	-13.0	28	-7.5	27	3.85	89.10	-6.5		
United States	320.15	-1.9	7	6.1	7	1.85	320.15	6.1		

COMPOSITE INDICES				
Europe	239.32	0.3	-0.1	2.68
Pacific Basin	135.84	-0.6	-8.6	1.38
Europe/Pacific	178.94	-0.1	-4.1	2.11
World	226.20	0.9	0.9	1.98

Sources: Goldman, Sachs & Co. Exchange rates as of Friday's London close & 1996 The Financial Times Ltd., Goldman, Sachs & Co. and Standard & Poor's.

EXCHANGE RATES				
	Friday	Last Friday	Week % Chg.	Year Ago
Japanese yen to the U.S. dollar	121.38	119.08	+1.98	106.38
German marks to the U.S. dollar	1.6383	1.6284	+0.60	1.4815
Canadian dollars to the U.S. dollar	1.3478	1.3488	-0.07	1.3768
U.S. dollars to the British pound	1.6007	1.6308	-1.84	1.5252

Sources: Bloomberg Financial Markets; exchange rates as of Friday's New York close.

## Jan. 27-31: Stocks Roar Ahead, Buoyed by a Calmly Positive Bond Market

PRICES		
DOMESTIC EQUITIES		
Broad market	Up 2.03%	786.17
S. & P. 500 index	Up 1.74%	6,813.09
Blue chips	Up 0.36%	369.45
Dow 30 industrials		
Small capitalization		
Russell 2000 index		

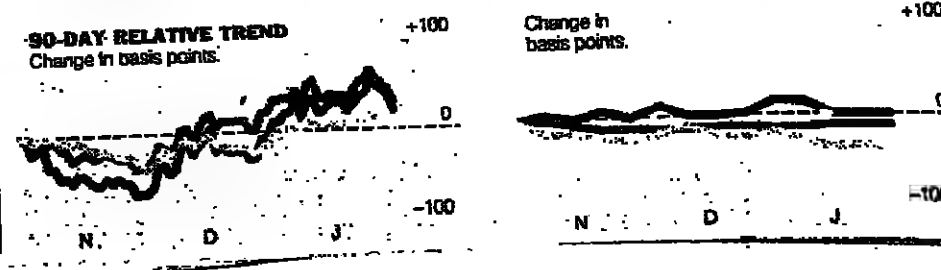
DOMESTIC BONDS		
Treasuries	Up 0.71%	194.58
Ryan Labs. Total Return	Up 0.70%	115.97
Municipals	Up 0.82%	848.74
Bond Buyer index		
Corporate		
Merrill Lynch Master index		

AROUND THE WORLD		
European stocks	Up 0.29%	239.32
F.T.-Actuaries Europe	Down 0.57%	135.84
Asian stocks	Down 2.41%	334.90
F.T.-Actuaries Pacific Basin		
Gold		
New York cash price		

Foreign indexes are given in dollar terms



YIELDS		
BONDS		
Long bonds	6.78%	
30-year Treasuries	Down 10 basis pts.	
Notes	5.91%	
2-year Treasuries	Down 13 basis pts.	
Municipals	5.82%	
Bond Buyer index	Down 5 basis pts.	
100 basis points = 1 percentage point		
OTHER INVESTMENTS		
Money market funds	4.82%	
Taxable average	Unchanged	
Bank C.D.'s	5.04%	
1-year small savers	Unchanged	
Stocks	1.91%	
S. & P. 500 dividend yield	Down 3 b.p.	





# The New York Times

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## Don Imus's Finance Forum

It is alarming but true that the discussion of campaign finance last week on Don Imus's radio show was more honest and useful than President Clinton's comments on the same subject at his news conference.

Mr. Clinton's detached, passive "mistakes-were-made" formulation about Democratic fundraising excesses made it sound as if some mystery guest in the Lincoln Bedroom had caused the mischief. But his most noteworthy and disturbing comments came in a defense of the influence-peddling status quo.

The President asserted that no matter how much money a White House visitor contributes, all he gets is an attentive ear and a cup of coffee. That is nonsense, a palpable fiction that helps preserve the traditional campaign shakedown. The all-we-do-is-listen mantra is endlessly repeated by both Democrats and Republicans who want campaigns reformed at the margins, if at all, and it has many variations. One of them is that big-money contributors do not want special treatment. They just want a chance to make their case.

The real game of campaign finance works quite differently, as Imus listeners were assured by Senator John Kerry. After some pro-forma defending of Mr. Clinton, the Massachusetts Democrat said there is a "clear expectation" in the minds of some big donors "that because they contributed, they thought that something was going to happen." In his own experience, he said, when big contributors did not get the access and legislative result they thought they were paying for, they "simply drifted away."

Later in the week, Mr. Imus talked to another Senator, Bob Kerrey of Nebraska, who has had plenty of experience searching for big money as

chairman of the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee. He pointed out that fat-cat money drives politics because the high cost of television advertising drives campaign budgets. The result is candidates who are dependent on big contributors and "a wild marketplace of promises and money being raised."

Mr. Kerrey also stressed the need to strengthen the Federal Election Commission, which raises the interesting question of what ever happened to that agency. The Justice Department is investigating campaign abuses. Congress is investigating. People all over Washington are arguing over whether a special prosecutor or just the Federal Bureau of Investigation is needed to figure out the White House's pipeline to foreign money. Although some F.E.C. officials are showing signs of awakening to their duty, the agency's somnolence to this point is testimony to Republican cuts in the F.E.C.'s budget and the fact that Mr. Clinton has failed to appoint strong reformers to the commission.

There is a pressing need for Mr. Clinton to stop trying to fool people into thinking the access racket is an innocuous conversational exercise. He said in his news conference that he supported bipartisan legislation aimed at bringing down the costs of campaigns and otherwise reforming the system. That is good. But how seriously can anyone take him if he cannot bring himself to denounce the system everyone in America knows is a durable source of corruption and compromised government?

Then there is the matter of Presidential behavior. After the most grueling interrogation that any President since Richard Nixon has received about campaign money, Mr. Clinton spent the evening at a fund-raiser just like the ones that have put a cloud over his White House.

## The New Mercenaries of Africa

Mercenaries have returned to Africa. The new group, led by whites who once fought in South Africa's notorious counterinsurgency units, is called Executive Outcomes and advertises its military services in fancy brochures. The organization, formed in 1989, has little in common with the ragtag band of coup-plotters Africa has seen in recent years. But it threatens to be just as destructive.

The group's spokesmen say it works only for legitimate governments, unlike anti-Communist European mercenaries Mike Hoare and Bob Denard. The soldiers, many of whom are black, make at least \$2,000 a month and use modern weapons like helicopter gunships. For roughly \$60 million, Executive Outcomes led an operation that defeated Angola's guerrilla army, something the Government had been trying to do since the country's independence 22 years ago. In Sierra Leone it organized the defeat of a powerful insurgency and allowed the country to hold elections, reportedly in exchange for a diamond-mining concession. The group, which claims to have relationships with 30 governments, may next be hired by Zaire's dictator to defeat a rebel group in eastern Zaire.

Executive Outcomes owes its rise to the end of the cold war. Africa's formerly ideological civil wars have now become competitions for control of natural resources. In addition, in some nations, government officials have left police and soldiers unpaid and undisciplined. Some African leaders, like Mobutu Sese Seko in Zaire, have refused to pay or train their militaries, not wanting to create

forces that could turn against them. The West, for its part, is no longer willing to spend money or blood to intervene, leaving a vacuum that private companies are eager to fill.

The dangers are clear. There is nothing to keep the soldiers of Executive Outcomes from falling into terror, destabilization and banditry. Many of its leaders got their start carrying out the South African Government's terror campaign against its domestic opponents under apartheid and supporting Pretoria's clients in Mozambique, Namibia and Angola during that era. In Angola they fought alongside the guerrilla army they helped defeat in recent years.

The soldiers of Executive Outcomes are not accountable to anyone other than the organization's leaders. If the mercenaries commit atrocities, citizens have no recourse. The company's financial arrangements are also troubling. If governments reimburse the group by granting it mining concessions, for instance, political leaders are effectively surrendering control of vital national resources. Regaining control when payment obligations have been met may not be easy.

Although Nelson Mandela's Government says it is going to outlaw Executive Outcomes, it is happy for a time to have the group's soldiers occupied elsewhere in Africa, instead of making trouble at home. Mr. Mandela is right to start worrying now. It is not in the long-term interest of South Africa or its neighbors to encourage Executive Outcomes.

### Topics of The Times

#### An Undeserved Star

The Air Force has wisely delayed the promotion of Brig. Gen. Terry Schwalier to a two-star rank until it completes an investigation of the terrorist attack that killed 19 American airmen and injured 500 in Saudi Arabia last June. The next step the Air Force should take is to cancel the promotion altogether. A separate Pentagon inquiry last year found that General Schwalier, the commander of American forces in Dhahran, paid insufficient attention to security needs at the Khobar Towers apartment complex where the servicemen lived.

Despite the scathing criticism of General Schwalier's conduct, the Air Force is reluctant to discipline him or anyone else responsible for the inadequate security. It seems to offend the military's distorted sense of fairness to punish an officer for a command failure that contributed to the loss of life. In this case, General Schwalier, while addressing some terrorist threats, made little effort to extend the perimeter of the base or even to install inexpensive plastic film on the apartment windows to prevent glass from shattering in an explosion.

The promotion of General Schwalier would insult both the armed services and the memory of those who died needlessly in Dhahran.

#### Breathable Buses

In a few years, New York City residents will be able to breathe a little more easily thanks to an agreement between Gov. George Pataki of New York and E. Virgil Conway, chairman of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, to begin converting the city's fleet of 3,600 dirty diesel buses to buses that run on much cleaner fuels like natural gas. About 200 new buses should be in service by late next year.

The agreement, announced last week, owes much to the persistence of the Natural Resources Defense Council, an environmental group that campaigned for three years to overcome bureaucratic inertia as well as fears

noted that several major cities, including Atlanta and Cleveland, have already converted to cleaner vehicles. But its major selling point was that conversion would help bring the city into compliance with the Federal Clean Air Act and could save lives. Natural-gas buses emit up to 90 percent less particulate soot than even the cleanest diesels available. Some scientists have estimated that particulate matter causes about 4,000 premature deaths annually in the city.

Each new vehicle will cost about \$325,000, or \$50,000 more than ordinary diesels. Even though the M.T.A.'s budget is tight, the funds are there. The Federal Transit Administration helps defray capital improvements, while the state's new Environmental Bond Act targets \$85 million for cleaner vehicles. The extra costs will be richly repaid — in cleaner air and longer lives.

#### Getting Rid of Tainted Food

President Clinton has announced ambitious plans to insure that what Americans eat is safe and to react more quickly to outbreaks of diseases spread by tainted food.

The problem of contaminated food confronted Mr. Clinton during his first week in office, when four children died and hundreds became ill in the Northwest after eating undercooked hamburgers tainted with E. coli bacteria at a fast-food chain. Last fall, unpasteurized apple juice caused the death of one child and sickness in dozens of others.

Mr. Clinton's program would create an early-warning system by broadening the reach of the nation's food inspection system and improving communication between Federal food inspectors and state health departments. To bring about these changes, Mr. Clinton proposes a hefty \$43 million boost in the budget for food safety. About half of the money would go to the Federal Food and Drug Administration to enhance seafood safety inspections, which have long lagged behind meat and poultry inspections.

Congress should join Mr. Clinton in this necessary

## Caseworkers Aren't Sabotaging Welfare Reform

To the Editor:

Bradley R. Schiller argues that welfare reform efforts are being undermined by discretionary exemptions from work requirements (Op-Ed, Jan. 28). The reason, he asserts, is that "the army of social workers who carry out welfare at the local level is by and large liberal."

During my time as a caseworker in Boston, any client who exhibited even modest competence was sent off to job training and so-called opportunities. Most clients were unemployable: illiterate, pathological or overwhelmed by the stress of caring for extended families. Exemption decisions reflected caseworkers' practical judgment, not politics.

Mr. Schiller perpetuates the myths that most people on welfare are living a life of ease at taxpayer expense. Let him study the

decisions of caseworkers where they are made and he'll see the reality: the chaotic lives of the desperately poor.

TERESA J. PARKER  
Cambridge, Mass., Jan. 29, 1997

To the Editor:

Bradley R. Schiller (Op-Ed, Jan. 28) underestimates the impact that welfare has had. Welfare clients often must choose between keeping benefits and doing menial work or dropping their benefits so they will have the time to go to school, which will give them the tools they need to secure work. If they miss a few days of work, their cases can be dropped. Welfare has become instrumental in reducing the welfare rolls and denying benefits to those who truly need them.

RACHEL K. FIELD  
New York, Jan. 28, 1997  
The writer is a social worker.

## Airline Pilots Deserve Respect and More

To the Editor:

Your Jan. 26 Week in Review article on airline pilots snipes at my profession by repeating some tired old myths. You say that pilots have become "systems managers, monitoring computers that can largely fly planes on their own." Let's take a typical winter day at LaGuardia Airport with 30 knots of wind blowing snow and a runway designed for Lindbergh-era propeller planes. The only computers capable of this job are the ones between the ears of the captain and the first officer.

You quote a former airline captain as saying pilots "are paid too much." A 767 crew makes \$5 million a year in revenue for the airline. What should the pilot's share be? If managers and shareholders are making more, it seems to follow that crews and employees should share in the raises, too. You also report that "pilots are actually flying only 60 to 80 hours a month." Pilots are typically away from home 15 to 20 days each month. The Federal Aviation Administration refuses to let us fly more than 30 hours in seven days or more than 100 hours per month because it knows



Gus D'Angelo

that flying a jet airliner is a demanding task requiring rested crews.

Airline pilots have a heavy responsibility in safeguarding lives and company assets up to a billion dollars. The best pilots are attracted by the high pay and career opportunities. If you were on that airplane, would you want less than that?

DAN G. WALL  
Fort Worth, Tex., Jan. 30, 1997

## India's War on Polio Met With Superstition

To the Editor:

"Vaccine War Emboldens India as It Weakens Polio" (news article, Jan. 26) reports the adoption of a new approach to eradicate the disease in which health workers fan out across the country to vaccinate small children.

You mention years of official inefficiency that left India with the highest incidence of polio of any nation. However, the main problem then was not a shortage of vaccines but rather parents' unwillingness to bring babies for polio drops.

In 1986 the Rotary Clubs in Bangalore organized a "Goodbye Polio" campaign. With the cooperation of health officials, free immunization camps were set up near all the slum areas and in nearby villages. The camps remained a week, but only a few babies were brought in.

Some of our Rotarians went around to find the reason. Many parents were afraid that they would incur the wrath of the goddess Kali, believed to be the destroyer of evil. Their superstition was so strong that hostile parents in some areas would not allow their babies to be immunized.

Now the situation is different, thanks mainly to Doordarshan, the Government-controlled television network, which for the last five years carried a series of advertisements in all regional languages that put fear of polio above superstition and reached millions of illiterate people. There may still be a few afraid of the goddess, but many are coming forward and voluntarily bringing their babies to the camps.

M. S. PRAKASA RAO  
Matawan, N.J., Jan. 26, 1997

## Mammograms and Lives

To the Editor:

You note (editorial, Jan. 28) that breast cancer is the leading cause of death in American women age 40 to 49. However, you seem to agree with the National Institutes of Health panel, which declined to recommend mammograms for women in that age group, when you say that "in calculating benefits, the panel noted that mammograms might save the lives of 10 out of 10,000 women age 40 to 49 who were screened each year."

There are almost 20 million women in this country aged 40 to 50. If we screen these women, we might save 20,000 a year, or 200,000 in a decade. This is not an inconsiderable number.

LEROY L. SCHWARTZ, M.D.  
Los Angeles, Jan. 28, 1997

## Egypt Mustn't Waver

To the Editor:

Thomas L. Friedman (column, Jan. 26) writes that Egypt seems "ambivalent about the peace process because it means a new playing field in the Middle East — one on which Israel will be fully integrated and the competition will be largely economic, where Egypt feels a disadvantage."

As a participant in the Cairo Economic Conference last November, I was shocked that President Hosni Mubarak chose not to invite the new Israeli Prime Minister. By defining business and peace, Egypt will not succeed in avoiding open-market competition. Only with a return to the bridge-building of business and peace can the region hope for prosperity. Rather than feeling at a disadvantage, Egypt has a leadership role to play.

JERRY M. ROSENBERG  
New York, Jan. 27, 1997

## Tax Breaks and Bodegas

To the Editor:

You report that President Clinton will ask Congress to provide tax breaks for employers of welfare recipients (front page, Jan. 28). But these credits provide little relief for the likely first line of employers. People coming off welfare will look to the immediate neighborhood to find a job. The grocers, bodegas and other "mom and pop" operations might welcome the help, but tax relief carries with it additional paperwork requiring a bookkeeper or other tax consultant. The gain is far less than the expense.

When I was director of the New York City high school division several years ago, we received financing from the city to address the dropout issue. One initiative let us provide a training wage for teen-agers in the local community. Employers received six weeks of free help while preparing the young people for work. Many employers grew to rely on their assistants and kept them on when the training wage ended. Similar efforts like the SEEK program and the Job Training Partnership Act may have not been successful because they did not address the needs of local businesses.

VICTOR HERBERT  
Phoenix, Jan. 28, 1997  
The writer is project director of the Community Partnership of Phoenix.

## Why Praise a Failure?

To the Editor:

Why does President Clinton continue to praise a welfare-to-work program that has failed half of those enrolled? At his Jan. 28 news conference, he praised Kansas City's community employment council (excerpt, Jan. 28), yet Gary J. Stangler, director of Missouri's Department of Social Services, has admitted that half the participants fail.

Where do these people go for help when the government cuts them off? Back to the food pantries. Bad news, Mr. President. Community charities are unable to assist all those coming to us for help.

GLENN KOENEN  
Exec. Dir., Circle of Concern  
Valley Park, Mo., Jan. 29, 1997

## CBS and King Video

To the Editor:

A Jan. 27 editorial concludes that it's good for CBS to market the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech in its five-part video series without sharing its profits with his heirs and suggests that it's somehow bad for Dr. King's estate to sue CBS for a share of these profits. You and CBS seem to believe the King estate should have no rights under copyright law in the interest of "political discourse, journalism and public access to information."

Would you waive copyright protection and give away all your information to the public? Copyright law is for all of us, even media corporations.

DENNIS DALRYMPLE  
New York, Jan. 28, 1997

## Cochran Stays Course

To the Editor:

Maureen Dowd (column, Jan. 26) suggests that Johnnie Cochran, O. J. Simpson's lawyer, abandoned my client Elmer (Geronimo) Pratt during an important hearing to overturn his murder conviction so that Mr. Cochran could pursue his television career in New York, forcing me to remain in Orange County to conduct the hearing even though my wife had been hospitalized.

In fact, Mr. Cochran volunteered to cancel his plans so that he could be present at the Jan. 3 hearing while I stayed in San Francisco. Because I have worked on Mr. Pratt's case since 1974, my wife and I made the decision that I should be present at the hearing. If a new trial is granted, Mr. Cochran has committed to trying the case with me.

STUART HANLON  
San Francisco, Jan. 30, 1997

## Neutral Ireland Posed the Greatest Threat to an Allied Victory

To the Editor:

Your Jan. 26 Week in Review article on the neutral European countries during World War II did not mention Ireland, yet of all the neutral countries, it posed the greatest threat to an Allied victory.

The denial of southern Irish ports to Allied ships was surely responsible for untold losses of Allied personnel and materiel. The important role of Northern Ireland was recognized by Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, but everything that happened there was known to the Germans in the Republic. It is well known that some people in the south actively helped German intelligence. On the other hand, some southern Irish men volunteered to serve in the British forces, and Irish women sought to escape poverty by taking jobs in wartime Britain.

One puzzle of the war is why Germany, after the fall of France in 1940 when Britain was at its weakest, didn't drop troops in the Republic but

chose the Russian adventure. Britain could have offered little resistance and might have been contained, surrounded by enemy territory.

No wonder Harry S. Truman had little use for the Irish Prime Minister, Eamon de Valera.

PETER GARLICK  
New Paltz, N.Y., Jan. 28, 1997

## Churchill's Switzerland

To the Editor:

Your Jan. 26 Week in Review article quotes Arno J. Mayer, a

Princeton history professor, as saying that given the fact that Switzerland borders Germany, "it was natural for it to lean more toward the Axis powers."

By that logic France, Poland, Belgium and Czechoslovakia should also have been pro-German.

A better quote is in a letter Winston Churchill wrote to Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden in December 1944: "Of all the neutrals, Switzerland has the greatest right to distinction. . . . What does it matter whether she has been able to give us the commercial advantage we desire or has given too many to the Germans. . . . She has been a democratic state, standing for freedom in self-defense. . . . and largely on our side."

STEPHEN T. KOELLA  
Rockford, Tenn., Jan. 27, 1997

## Super Bowl of Science?

To the Editor:

Imagine if the Westinghouse Science Talent Search finalists (news article, Jan. 28) received the accolades and adulation lavished upon the Super Bowl participants.

Imagine media hype and national television coverage. Imagine what could be done with those revenues.

Oh, what a wonderful world it could be.

SANDRA HOLLENBERG  
Ketchum, Idaho, Jan. 30, 1997

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2001/2/2



## The True Balance Of Power

By Leon E. Panetta

**T**he success of President Clinton's agenda for the next four years will be determined largely by whether he can govern from the center. That agenda recognizes that government is not the solution to all problems, nor the cause, but must be a tool to provide opportunity to those willing to accept responsibility. This is the essence of the "vital center," from which most Americans want the President and Congress to govern.

But if the center is the logical, popular place to be, why is it so difficult to get there? The answer lies in the nature of Congress as an institution.

Over the last two decades, many of us who have served in Congress have believed that it was possible to bring together a large bipartisan group of moderate representatives who reject extremism and blind ideology and decide issues on the basis of common sense, conciliation and compromise. But during that time, power in Congress has rarely gravitated to the center.

Why? First and foremost, institutional power in both the House and Senate resides with the parties. Committee assignments, campaign money, leadership positions, parking, trips and legislative scheduling depend on party leaders. For that reason, party loyalty is basic to political survival. The center might be a good place to vote, but the party is where you have to live. And both parties rely on activists and interest groups that tend

to bunch on the right and left, so that is where they must draw their bases and their agendas.

Second, the legislative process allows centrist coalitions little power or time to coalesce for action. Most legislation emerges from committee, where the chairman and key members respond to pressures from their leaders and party members. By the time most bills reach the House or Senate floor, party positions have been largely decided. Once party discipline descends on an issue, it leaves little room for representatives to gather at the center without the risk of angering their party leadership.

Last, the spirit and many of the ideas that produce legislation come not from the center of the political spectrum but from the liberal or conservative core of each party. It is the center that can forge disparate points of view into a popular consensus. But only when a left or right coalition cannot win on an issue does the center become a force for action — that is, only when the majority party fears losing.

Recognizing these inherent problems, how does the President make the center a vibrant legislative force? The key is using the bully pulpit to reach the people. Most citi-



Martin Kuzewski

### Congress tilts; public pressure sets it aright.

zens are not motivated by issues because they are left or right, conservative or liberal, Democratic or Republican. They simply care about how issues affect their daily lives and their children's future. When they are motivated, they can force Congress toward the center.

Just look at the last Congress. Most Americans shared the Republicans' goal of a balanced budget. But most families thought that elements of the Republican budget were ideologically excessive and that shutting down the Government was extreme and threatening. The President and Democrats made that case to the people, and ultimately the Republican leadership was forced to soften its stance. The results were 1996 and 1997 budgets that cut spending while largely protecting the President's priorities, with the support of huge coalitions at the center.

Raising the minimum wage, normally a left-of-center issue, was strongly supported by most Americans. When the President used the bully pulpit, and Democrats, with the support of moderate Republicans, pushed it vote after vote, a coalition came together at the center and forced action, despite the opposition of the majority party leadership.

On welfare reform, legislation emerged from a combination of pressure from conservative forces in Congress and the President. Americans shared the conviction that the system was broken and needed reform, but few wanted to hurt people in the process. Continuing, and vocal, efforts by the President and centrists in Congress led to greater financing for child care and protection of medical benefits, creating a right-to-center coalition that passed the bill.

There is no ongoing governing coalition at the center, but one can be created on each individual issue. So the lesson of the last two years is that the best path to the center is through the President's bully pulpit, which can be used to convince Americans that goals like a balanced budget, better education, more police officers on the streets, environmental protection, campaign finance reform and jobs for welfare recipients are critical.

The American people can drive Congress to the center. This remains the most important lesson of the next four years if the President is to fulfill his ambition to have the vital center control the nation's agenda.

### Liberties

MAUREEN DOWD

## Potus Aurelius

WASHINGTON  
Ever since Jimmy Carter went up the mountain with tomes on leadership and came down with malaise, it has made me nervous to see Presidents fooling around with books.

With pots, a little reading can be a dangerous thing. In 1990, George Bush had read only the first 200 pages of Martin Gilbert's 843-page book on the Second World War — "a great, big, thick history," Mr. Bush called it — when he began throwing around overwrought comparisons of Hitler and Saddam Hussein.

Lee Atwater used to carry in his briefcase "The Art of War" by Sun Tzu, an ancient Chinese warrior-philosopher who dropped pearls like: "For the impact of armed forces to be like stones thrown on eggs is a matter of emptiness and fullness."

Ross Perot also loved martial piffling, finding inspiration in "Leadership Secrets of Attila the Hun," by Wess Roberts, a California psychologist: "When on the hunt, be prepared

to have no clothes, who believed in simplicity of wardrobe, diet and speech, who hated carping, bad temper and polls (known then as "sounding the minds of the neighbors").

In his first term, Mr. Clinton was so busy with New Age gurus, he ignored the lessons of his Old Age guru. But perhaps the messy burden of Paula Jones and John Huang has convinced the President of the need to find some philosophical distance.

Here, summarized, a dozen epigrams of Marcus that will serve Potus (the smarmy Washington insider way of referring to President of the United States) very well.

1. Work toward mastery of self and vacillation in nothing.

2. Within 10 days you will appear a god even to those to whom today you seem a beast or a baboon if you return to your principles.

3. Don't anymore discuss what the good man is like, but be good.

4. If it is not right, don't do it; if it is not true, don't say it.

5. Let no one any longer hear you finding fault with your life in a palace.

6. Turn inward to your self, whenever you blame the traitor or the ungrateful, for the fault is plainly yours.

7. Disdain the flesh: blood and bones, a twisted skein of nerves, veins, arteries.

8. Perceive at last that you have within yourself something stronger and more divine than the passions — fright, suspicion, appetite? — which make a downright puppet of you.

9. The simple and good man ought to be entirely such. The affectation of simplicity is like a razor.

10. Nothing is more wretched than the man who seeks to sound the minds of his neighbors. Socrates used to call the opinions of the multitude "bogies," things to frighten children. What need have you of a suggestion, when it is possible to see what ought to be done and proceed on this path without turning back?

11. Perfection of character possesses this: Not to act a part.

12. The man in a flutter for after-fame fails to picture to himself that each of those who remember him will also very shortly die. Near at hand is your forgetting all; near too, all forgetting you.

Nobody said it would be easy, Mr. President. And it can't be fun having a critic whose been dead for 1,800 years. Maybe you should stick with Easy Rawlins.

## Many Unhappy Returns at I.R.S.

By Jaron Lanier

**F**or once, we can do something about government waste and I.R.S. ineptitude, quickly and cheaply.

The Internal Revenue Service disclosed its latest incompetence on Thursday when it conceded that the \$4 billion it had spent on developing modern computer systems was a waste. Part of that money, \$284 million, was given to Lockheed Martin, the defense contractor, to turn paper tax returns into electronic images. The agency now says it has to scrap this effort, at what an I.R.S. official described as an "astronomical cost."

Instead, the agency now desper-

Jaron Lanier is a visiting scholar at Columbia University's computer science department.

### Hello? Ever heard of the Internet?

ately proposes to contract out the processing to private employees, who will get to see the tax returns of their fellow Americans in order to enter the data manually.

What a gargantuan foul-up! At the core of the debacle were philosophical errors about the right way to use computers. First, the I.R.S. must have believed the hype from some people in the computer-science establishment who hope to make computers think like people. The truth is that while computers are very good at doing certain mental tasks, they are still not able to perform many tasks that humans find simple, like reading numbers on a paper tax form.

Second, the I.R.S. ignored the inexpensive, decentralized Internet in favor of an outrageously expensive, centralized custom solution. Large numbers of Americans are already sending around digital information on the Internet every day. All kinds of commercial firms, from banks to bookstores, are routinely conducting transactions over the Internet, which is faster, more secure and costs less than using the post office.

By contrast, all that the I.R.S. has offered taxpayers is a little-publicized service requiring electronic returns to be filed through approved intermediaries, who charge as much as \$25. As a result of this bizarre policy, the I.R.S. is still receiving 90 percent of its tax returns on paper forms.

If the I.R.S. could shed the twin myths that centralization and artificial intelligence are achievable, or even desirable, it could benefit from the Internet, just like everyone else.

### Foreign Affairs

THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN

## Roll Over Hawks and Doves

DAVOS, Switzerland

The Times Mexico correspondent Julia Preston recently told me an intriguing story about the Zapatista guerrillas, the peasant group that has been fighting the effects of free trade and globalization on Mexico. Last year, the Zapatistas held a convention in the jungles of southern Mexico, entitled "The Intercontinental Forum in Favor of Humanity and Against Neo-Liberalism." The closing session met in a steamy, mud-hole amphitheater and was led by Zapatista leader "Sub-Commander Marcos" — a Mexican combination of Robin Hood and Ralph Nader. The session ended with the Zapatistas doing a kind of drum roll and announcing the most evil, dangerous institution in the world today. To a standing ovation, the Zapatistas declared the biggest enemy of mankind to be the W.T.O. — the World Trade Organization in Geneva, which promotes global free trade.

It's not surprising that the Zapatistas figured out that the W.T.O. was the embodiment of globalization and was having a huge impact on their lives and jobs. What's interesting is how many serious scholars recently have joined the Zapatistas in asking whether globalization — the integration of trade, finance and information that is creating a single global market and culture — is a threat to humanity or its salvation and whether it's inexorable or can be rolled back.

Just this month you have George Soros's essay in The Atlantic Monthly entitled "The Capitalist Threat," in which the financier argues that the spread of brutal global capitalism

### The global debate: Who are you?

has replaced Communism as the main threat to democratic societies. You have William Greider's new book, "One World, Ready or Not: The Manic Logic of Global Capitalism." You have a provocative essay by Harvard's Dani Rodrik, published by the Institute for International Economics: "Has Globalization Gone Too Far?" And you have a counterattack by Deputy Treasury Secretary Lawrence Summers, whose latest speech, "Integrating National Economies," argues that economic integration promotes stability and prosperity, and that we shouldn't give in to the "separatists."

This is becoming one of the most important foreign policy debates (and was a hot topic at this year's Davos World Economic Forum). Now, some of these writings are misleading — those that suggest globalization can be stopped. It can't. It's inevitable. But while it can't be stopped there are two things that can be done to it: We can go faster or slower — that is, we can sign more or fewer free-trade agreements. And we can do more or less to cushion the negatives of globalization — that is, we can strengthen or shrink our social safety nets to help the losers and we can invest more or less in educating our people to

take advantage of globalization.

If you want to know who you are in this debate, draw one line going from east to west. On one extreme are the separatists, those who want to shut down globalization and economic integration, and at the other end are the integrationists, those who believe globalization is not only inevitable but good and want to sign more free-trade deals until we have global free trade from east to west.

Then draw a second line from north to south. At the south end are those who believe the state should take total care of the losers from globalization, with everything from Social Security and health care to training programs. These are the safety-netters. At the north end are those who believe the essence of globalization is Darwinian economic competition, and the winners should take all and the losers should take care of themselves. These are the let-them-eat-cakeers.

This handy matrix explains politics today: Bill Clinton is an integrationist/safety-netter. Newt Gingrich is an integrationist/let-them-eat-caker. Ross Perot is a separatist/let-them-eat-caker and the Zapatistas are separatists/safety-netters. This explains why Clinton can align with Gingrich on NAFTA but oppose him on Social Security reform, or why Perot and Sub-Commander Marcos are allies on NAFTA and opponents on everything else. So forget the political labels hawk and dove, left and right. That's old speak. Put yourself in this matrix and find out who you are, and who your allies are, in the next great foreign policy debate.

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## FILM

## Hollywood Comes to Sundance, in Pursuit of Free Spirits

By CARYN JAMES

**A**T the Sundance Film Festival, it was hard to walk down the street or negotiate your way through a party without being mowed down by a camera crew. Park City was full of them, but they weren't making movies; they were trying to mint new celebrities.

ABC's "Good Morning America" was trailing Morgan J. Freeman (no relation to the actor), the director of "Hurricane," an adolescent angst movie that went on to tie for this year's Audience Award. MSNBC was following the three partners in October Films, whose non-Sundance movies "Secrets and Lies" and "Breaking the Waves" are contenders for Oscar nominations.

Most ubiquitous was the crew from CBS's "48 Hours," loyally dogging every step of Vin Diesel, a plumped-up New Yorker who wrote, directed and stars in "Strays." At one dizzying moment, CBS was filming Diesel being filmed by the Sundance Channel.

Even the hardest-nosed business people, the distributors who come here prepared to buy movies, now astutely describe this festival in terms of pop-culture celebrity. Their tone is usually stunned, as if visualizing money flying out of their pockets.

"We're turning these guys into instant millionaires; they're like basketball players," Bob Aaronson, an acquisitions executive at 20th Century Fox, said of Sundance film makers. Fox Searchlight paid more than \$2 million for "Star Maps," an improbably funny yet moving film about a Latino would-be actor who sells maps to movie stars' homes and moonlights as a prostitute. As Lindsay Law, president of Fox Searchlight, said, "The film maker is the new rock star."

The irony is: this wasn't a very hot year at Sundance, either for commerce or for art. No matter. Every year a Saint-Vitus's dance sets in; buyers were setting up clandestine screenings, and moviegoers were swarming into theaters like locusts. "Noah Wyle's trying to cut in line," someone said about the actor from "E.R.," who stars in "The Myth of Fingerprints" and was being led through a jammed corridor to see his film.

Among these trappings of fame, no wonder it is now standard to ask, Has Sundance sold out to Hollywood? But a far more pertinent question is, Has Hollywood sold out to Sundance? And as this low-key, course-correcting year proves, beneath the glitz, the Sundance Film Festival (which ended last weekend) has remained remarkably focused on small independent films. Meanwhile the landscape has shifted all around it. Like the mountain going to Mohammed, Hollywood has expanded its range of vision to include the ideals that Sundance has long been fostering.

Even with your eyes closed, it's not easy to confuse Rod Steiger with Robert Redford. Yet when Mr. Steiger stood on stage at the Golden Globe Awards recently, his words sounded eerily like those Mr. Redford had been saying for years. "They're called independent films because of their financing, but they're independent because of their spirit," Mr. Steiger said, presenting a clip from "Breaking the Waves," nominated for best drama. His words (in a ceremony televised on NBC, as mainstream as movie-gazing gets) suggest the direct link between Hollywood and Park City. In part because of the Sundance Film Festival's influence, Hollywood has embraced independent films as never before.

Eight years ago, when "Sex, Lies



Douglas Spain in "Star Maps" — Funny and snapped up.

and Videotape" became the first commercial hit out of the festival, the movie world was separated into gargantuan studio films and tiny, shoestring works. Since then, a huge middle ground has emerged, a gray area composed of major independent companies — like Miramax, Sony Pictures Classics, Fine Line, October, Gramercy and Fox Searchlight — releasing films like "The English Patient" and "Shine."

"The independent world has staked out a turf," says Geoffrey Gilmore, Sundance's programming director. "You can't say that film is either commercial or low-end now. There are a lot of models out there for how to make independent films."

And at the low end of the scale, almost anyone can get into the game. Investors have found that a movie made for less than \$2 million will probably break even if there are some shrewd foreign, video and television sales. Practical factors as different as improved technology and New York union contracts that give breaks to independents have contributed to the glut of films at this festival and in the marketplace.

Sundance's crucial role in this equation has been to raise the profile and expectations for independent movies. "Six years ago at this festival, there would have been a lot of debate about whether any of these films had commercial potential," Mr. Gilmore says. Now the debate is about how much potential they have.

But that development cuts two ways. It is easier for a new film maker to create a movie, and ever harder to find a distributor. As L. M. Kit Carson (who acts in and is a producer of "Hurricane") points out with a bluntness that is refreshing in this atmosphere of sensitive plants, there is also an unfortunate side to that trend: "It leads people to think their dog can direct a movie." For every "Shine," which is a success, there is a "Spitfire Grill," which sold at Sundance last year for a calamitously overpriced \$10 million. That price took what might have been a modest success and turned it into a major commercial failure.

Still, directors come here inspired by the Sundance fairy tale and by films like "The Brothers McMullen," which made Edward Burns a name director. "People are thinking, 'I can do that. I can win Lotto!'" said Robert Bell, a first-time director whose "Colin Fitz" was in the dramatic competition. He didn't win Lotto or a prize, but he did direct a deftly amusing dark comedy about security guards protecting the grave of a rock star. Its wit was a relief in a year more loaded than usual with coming-of-age stories.

That's another deadening aspect of the independent explosion: every young film maker has a sexual awakening story. They blend together even though every possible variation was represented here, homosexual in the amateurish "Delta," heterosexual in the slight but charming "Mary Jane's Not a Virgin Anymore," lesbian in the vibrantly shot

and acted "All Over Me." The only thing missing was "Babe's Not a Virgin Anymore" with pigs and dogs.

The relative lack of daring in this year's films is dynamic proof that just because you can make a movie, doesn't mean you should. Vin Diesel became one of this year's object lessons. "Strays," a rambling, distant relation of "Mean Streets" in which tough guys learn to love their moms, was almost universally considered one of the low points of the festival.

There was, in fact, so much carping about weak selections this year that Robert Redford himself made a snarky comment in retaliation. After three feet of snow fell at his Sundance resort on Saturday, he was unable to get down the mountain to the awards ceremony in Park City. He sent a statement to be read, which included a line presumably in defense of Mr. Gilmore's much criticized program. "Please don't shoot the messenger," Mr. Redford wrote. "There are enough critics trying to do that."

There's no need for Sundance or Mr. Redford to be so defensive, or for buyers to be so unrealistic. After all, how often does a John Sayles or a David Lynch come along, establishing careers that viewers will want to follow for decades? How often does a "Shine" strike gold?

There were, instead, plenty of films here that help define what good independent film making is about. "The Myth of Fingerprints," an engaging and subtle family drama directed by Bart Freundlich, blurs the line between Hollywood and Sundance. It has recognizable stars, including Blythe Danner, Roy Scheider and Julianne Moore. Yet Mr. Wyle, playing one of several siblings who return home for Thanksgiving, is at the center of a father-son conflict that beautifully avoids a predictable Hollywood ending.

Over lunch, Mr. Wyle sounded smart about his own career and about what makes an independent film independent. He could have parlayed his television success into a role in a Hollywood film, but he's aware that the cast of "Friends" have bombed out in movies that way.

"I knew that a low-budget independent family drama was probably the best thing I could do, for my own sanity and professionally," he said. "Independent film has now taken on the air of quality. I wanted to structure my career to insure as much longevity as possible."

And he points out differences between the realism of "The Myth of Fingerprints" and a Hollywood melodrama. "If this were a studio film, I wouldn't have pushed my father into a table, I would have beat him up. My father wouldn't have kissed my girlfriend; he would have raped her." Because the film came to Sundance with a distributor, Sony Pictures Classics, it was one of the few polished movies in competition, something even other distributors could admire.

"There was not an ounce of fat on 'Myth of Fingerprints,'" said Mr. Law of Fox Searchlight. "Every year film makers stand up and say, 'We just finished the film; you're the first audience to see it, and I want to say, 'Don't do it! This is no place for a dress rehearsal anymore.'"

True to its purpose, the festival has balanced smooth films with edgier work, including "Star Maps" (shown out of competition) and "In the Company of Men," a tiny social comedy about two men who hatch a nasty plot to seduce and humiliate a deaf woman, retaliating for years of abuse by females. People here argued about whether it was misogynistic or male-bashing, but both extremes seem wrongheaded. One man is a sociopath, the other a wimp. Because of its provocative subject, "In the Company of Men" at least got some attention. As the festival grows, and distributors prowl for commercial prospects, the danger is that less flamboyant films will get lost. A slow, lovely film like "The Whole Wide World," which was in last year's festival (and is in theaters now), got scarcely any attention here. That hints at the scary notion that Sundance audiences may be as impatient as any others.

Hardly anybody talked about this year's Grand Jury winner, "Sunday," which deserved its prize. The film creates an elegant maze in which a middle-aged man living in a shelter in Queens is mistaken by a middle-aged actress for a famous director. Or is she mistaken after all? David Suchet, usually seen as the impeccable Hercule Poirot on PBS's "Mystery," becomes this year's downtrodden man with complete credibility, and the film creates a playful mirror world even while examining the realistic texture of diminished lives and expectations.

Directed by Jonathan Nossiter and written by him and James Lasdun, "Sunday" was the odd film out among so many kiddie flicks. "This is a good film that would be dead without winning," said John Powers, the film critic for Vogue magazine and a member of this year's jury. "Now it has a chance to find the audience it deserves."

Distributors are now circling around "Sunday," but the festival is



"Sunday," starring David Suchet and Lisa Harrow, won Sundance's Grand Jury prize.

littered with the remains of Grand Jury winners that never found an audience. (Do "Chameleon Street" or "Public Access" sound familiar? Of course not.) The Audience Award is usually the better harbinger of mainstream interest. "Hurricane" shared the prize with the romance "Love Jones" (which came to Sundance with New Line as its distributor). "Hurricane" is not nearly as rich as "Sunday," but it has a more viewer-friendly surface. Essentially it is one more variation on the coming-of-age film, in which a 15-year-old New York boy, being brought up by his grandmother while his mother is in prison, becomes carelessly involved in petty crime.

While the competition films disappointed buyers hoping to find Hollywood's next flavor of the month, Mr. Lynch's "Lost Highway" is a film with enough glossy production values for Hollywood, enough enigmatic content for Park City, and enough artistry to explode all categories. To say it is a murder mystery without a solution is merely to hint at its many swerves and layers, as Bill Pullman plays a man accused of murdering his wife. All the elements of film mak-

ing come together as they could in no other form: haunting visual images, a story that has the thrust of film noir, an eclectic jazz-and-pop score.

So many things in life are abstractions, and cinema has a way of dealing with that. Mr. Lynch said, adding that the film, which includes a mysterious transformation from one personality to another, "is not always intellectually understandable; it's an intuitive sort of understanding. People have to feel their way through." The remark makes sense coming from a man who started out as a painter and who resists describing "Lost Highway." As he said, in a voice that is remarkably tiny coming from such a tall man: "If you could say those 2 hours and 15 minutes in words, that would be beautiful, but usually the words fail."

If David Lynch is the epitome of a daring independent, the kind of film maker Sundance hopes and breeds, Steven Soderbergh has been the Sundance poster boy ever since "Sex, Lies and Videotape." Yet this year he brought a new film literally across the street, to Slamdance, the rival festival that was started three

years ago by film makers turned away from Sundance. There, the audience sits on folding chairs and some lie on sofa cushions on the floor. The existence of Slamdance is proof of how establishment Sundance has become.

Mr. Soderbergh's unexpectedly funny and strange "Schizopolis" is a screwball comedy about language and how it falls apart. The director himself stars in a deadpan role as a corporate executive who switches lives with a dentist and occasionally speaks gibberish. In an introduction, added recently to help loosen up the audience and prove "this isn't some pretentious treatise," Mr. Soderbergh offers the droll commentary that all of civilization rests on the acceptance of his film.

Mr. Redford has called Slamdance a parasite feeding off Sundance, which of course it is. Sundance's attitude toward Slamdance seems to be "This town's not big enough for both of us." Actually, as Sundance grows, it's hardly big enough for one of them anymore. But don't expect Sundance to move to Hollywood; it has done an amazing job of luring Hollywood in the direction of Park City.

## COLLEGE CATALOGUE

BY RICHARD SILVESTRI / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

**ACROSS**  
1 Spanish poet Federico Garcia  
6 Jacuzzi user  
12 Look everywhere in  
17 Indisposed  
19 Make it big  
20 Popular porters  
22 Wally's "One Writer's Beginnings," e.g.  
23 Stretched one's neck  
24 Mexican state or a product that originated there  
25 Whole-grain food  
27 Specialist in a duck blind  
29 "Where My Money Goes" (early 1900's song)  
30 Chuck alternative  
32 The thing is?  
33 G.P. grp.  
34 Highest honor  
35 Colorful clumps of grass  
40 Trimming tool  
42 Platinides  
44 Army leader?  
45 Province in Italy's Northern League  
46 Blue Eagle initials  
47 Adult  
48 Locare  
49 Conviction  
52 Kingdom of Minos  
53 Lies imply  
56 Drink for Drac  
57 Nurse  
58 Street of mystery  
60 Go cold turkey  
62 Columbia athlete  
63 Fill the hold  
64 Flying jib, e.g.  
65 Pull strings?  
66 Get fresh with  
67 More than miffed  
69 Telling  
70 Christmas —  
71 Advanced course  
73 Whiz  
75 "— a Moon Out Tonight" (1961 hit)  
76 "— Three Lives"  
77 Missouri, e.g.  
78 East end  
79 Jelly ingredient  
82 Secretary, at times  
83 Crime statistics  
87 Western airline name  
88 Emma Lazarus  
90 Muscle-building unit  
92 Put up  
93 To be, to Benita  
94 Word in a promise  
95 Hot issue?  
96 Area near the crown

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100 101 102 103 104 105 106 107 108 109 110 111 112 113 114

101 Squeaking  
102 One who teases a nobleman  
106 "Stalag 17" star  
108 Inherent character  
109 They're dispensed in litres  
110 Ancient  
111 School of painting  
112 Marsh plant  
113 Break  
114 Cobbler's stock

20 Changes back  
21 Guy Lombardo hit of 1937 or Jimmy Dorsey hit of 1957  
26 Silo occupant  
28 Franklin's flier  
31 Grabbed  
35 Hung out to dry  
36 Bomber initials  
37 Bring (out)  
38 Single  
39 Cod piece?  
40 "— Peach" (Allman Brothers album)  
41 Got lucky at poker  
43 General Grant's horseshoe  
45 Like the flu  
47 Hail  
48 Alley challenge  
49 Beer holders: Abbr.  
50 Walt Disney's middle name  
51 Unbound  
52 Chest material  
53 Done in  
54 Like some excursions  
55 Go furtively  
57 Unit of capacitance  
59 Distillation product  
61 Chuck  
63 Closer contents  
68 "South Pacific" hero  
69 Fends off

70 Make confetti  
72 Trojan princess of a Mozart opera  
74 Maintain  
75 Alias, once  
77 Costa, anatomically  
79 Get ready to leave  
80 Renowned Manhattan eatery  
81 Suggest  
82 Concern  
83 Overflows  
84 Captain, e.g.  
85 Slander  
86 A fistful

88 Home of England's Opera North  
89 Off-peak calls?  
91 ( ), informally  
93 Marker  
95 Loose-limbed  
97 Prepare for action  
98 Toll wearily  
99 "— Lap" (1983 film)  
100 Balcony section  
101 Engr.'s specialty  
103 Bambi's aunt  
104 Devil-may-care  
107 Bambi's aunt

## ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

LOGE MUSTS SEWS ELLA  
TYROL ABOTIL ALEC FOIL  
OCALA NOLTE BALT FLEA  
REKOS DAVIDGOLDFIELD  
NEGOTIATE FIY SINK  
DINT DURAN UDALL  
DIRECTOR OLOGOLDIDES  
IDEO ODEUN SESTATE IST  
KOLN ATTIP SERT ONES  
ELI SHUTAHN ETC  
CATONAHOTGOLDROOF  
GUNS OLEOTIL AGA  
NAGE CEST MAND GAO  
ERA OMARS DORIS OGE  
HYOGOLDWAY ANVELOPE  
IDEAL EDENS DYAD  
KEYS ELO POWERBOAT  
GOLDANDOLDLACE BEHE  
NOVA LOAF YENTIL ALBIN  
ANEW TOFF NODAL BLESS  
PENN APTS EADS TYRE



Patricia Arquette in David Lynch's "Lost Highway" — Enigmatic.

سازمان اطلاعات



## Sofia's choice

While Bulgaria's young Jews are emigrating because of dire economic conditions, the aged are staying – and in need.  
Michael Jordan reports from Sofia

Mordo Ishak Almozino has survived three wars and four decades of communism. But this 90-year-old Bulgarian Jew says he's stunned by the magnitude of his country's current economic crisis.

Inflation may have topped 50 percent for January alone. Average salaries have plummeted to \$25 per month, while pensioners receive roughly \$10. That's equal to about one loaf of bread per day. In desperation, scores of elderly resort to scavenging for food in garbage bins.

Almozino might have been among them, if it weren't for the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee. The JDC has responded to Bulgaria's worsening economic crisis by chipping in nearly \$20 per month for food

and heating for each of 1,400 Holocaust survivors.

"I would die without it," said Almozino, a retired bookkeeper whose great-grandfather was Bulgaria's first chief rabbi. "Man's greatest enemies are the cold and hunger."

While Almozino and others tough it out and vent their frustrations – for more than two weeks, tens of thousands have demonstrated nationwide against the ruling Socialists – a growing portion of younger Bulgarian Jews are jumping ship.

Their lifeboat: Israel.

Bulgaria is said to have the highest rate of Jewish emigration in the world. Some 1,000, of an estimated community of 7,000, have left for Israel since the Iron Curtain was torn down in 1989. And the

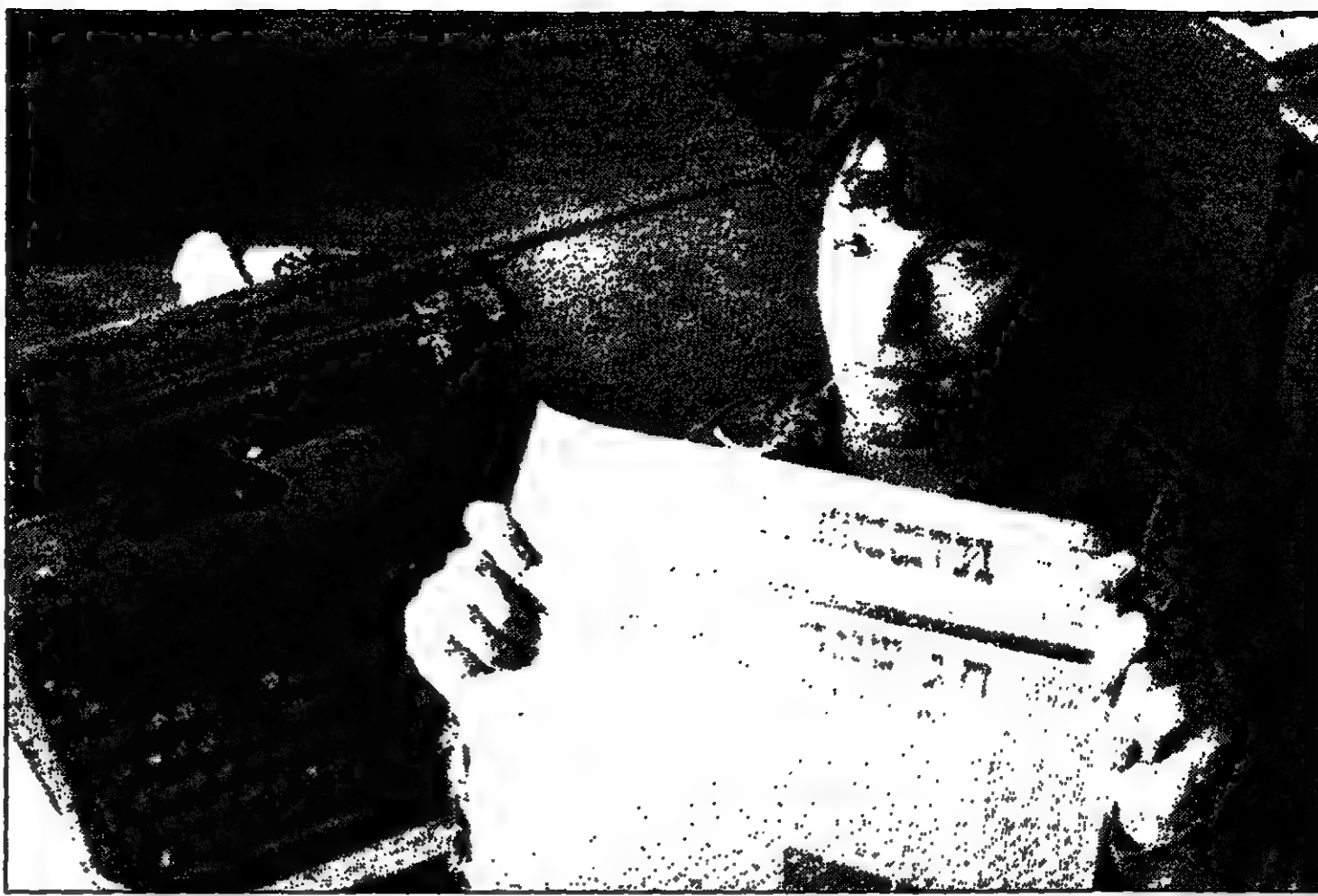
pace has picked up since July, mirroring the country's rapid economic decline. Twenty to 35 Jews depart each month, with a total of 300 to 400 predicted to head out this year, said Ori Konforti, director of the Jewish Agency for Israel in Sofia.

"It used to be that Bulgarian Jews left for work opportunities or Zionism, but now it's purely for economic reasons," Konforti said. He added that the agency has also rejected hundreds of Bulgarian applicants who posed as Jews in order to escape the economic crisis.

Unlike elsewhere in Eastern and Central Europe, antisemitism in Bulgaria is virtually a non-factor when considering emigration. This Balkan nation, where Jews trace their roots back to the second century CE, has been relatively good to the mostly Sephardi community. Though Bulgarians were allied with the Nazis and imposed several anti-Jewish laws, they ultimately protected their 50,000 Jews.

Bulgarians outside the country were another story, however. Bulgarian gendarmes operating in territory newly recovered from Macedonia and Greece rounded up and deported more than 11,000 Jews to Polish extermination camps.

But when the communists took power in 1948, the Bulgarians allowed nearly 45,000 Jews to emigrate to Israel over a two-year period. The remaining Jews, like all Bulgarians, saw their private and communal property nationalized (about half has since been returned) and were discouraged from practicing religion. However, Sofia's main synagogue stayed open and the Bulgarian-language Jewish newspaper continued publishing, albeit under state control.



Albert Havdala, assistant editor of the 'Jewish News,' the only Bulgarian-language newspaper of its kind. After the communists took power in 1948, the newspaper was allowed to continue under state control. (Doron Bacher/ Courtesy of Beth Hachofetz)



In Sofia, family members say farewell to relatives prior to aliyah. Bulgaria is said to have the highest rate of Jewish emigration in the world. (Doron Bacher/ Courtesy of Beth Hachofetz)

Today there is something of a community revival underway, despite the dwindling populace. Bulgarian Jews now operate their own grammar school, Sunday school and camps, thanks to individual and foreign donors like the JDC, the London-based World Jewish Relief, and the Jewish Community of Thessalonika, Greece. They've also restored Sofia's 88-year-old Sephardi synagogue.

Last year the JDC also donated to the general population of 8.4 million Bulgarians, supplying nearly \$300,000 worth of medicine, baby formula and powdered milk to old-age homes and orphanages.

Aside from picking up the slack for a cash-strapped government, the

charity was an investment of sorts. History has shown that where there's economic despair, Jews are traditionally fingered for blame, said Becca Lazarova, vice president of the Organization of Jews in Bulgaria. "If help only comes for Bulgarian Jews, and it becomes publicly known to other Bulgarians, there could be a wave of anti-semitism," Lazarova said. "They can't understand why Jews from around the world are helping us, because there's no foreign policy regarding the Bulgarian diaspora."

Community leaders also have their eye on other troubling developments. Within the increasingly popular political opposition, a coalition called the United Democratic Forces, there is a

small, right-wing faction that declares itself heir to the fascist World War II-era Bulgarian Legionnaires. And a recent article in a trade-union newspaper claimed that Israeli scientists had hatched the HIV virus to decimate the globe's population, paving the way for Jews to rule the world.

Fortunately, Jewish community leaders note, Jews are practically invisible in Bulgaria's economic and political life. On the other hand, they remain a potent presence in science, academia and the arts. In fact, Bulgarian Jew Isak Passi, a philosopher, has been nominated for a 1997 Nobel prize.

Still, with the economic tailspin only gaining speed, Jewish leaders also expect the "brain drain" and

graying of its population to continue. Eighty-five percent of the Israel-bound emigrants are highly educated and between the ages of 17 and 45, Konforti said.

Some Bulgarian Jews, though, choose to ignore the bleak forecasts. Martin Cohen, 25, emigrated to Israel six years ago. But when he returned to Bulgaria in 1994, he was startled. "In Israel there's no need to preserve your Jewishness because there are Jews all around you; here we need to preserve our identity," said Cohen, who recently translated the Sabbath prayer book into Bulgarian and coordinated the country's B'nai Brith Youth Organization. "So whereas in Israel I was an Israeli, it was in Bulgaria I became a Jew."

## Moroccan carpet co-op seeks to liberate women

The 20 women in the southern Moroccan village of Sidi Mokhar, 100 km from the walled city of Marrakesh, are packed in a small room, cheerfully making carpets on eight weaving looms. Their project started after a woman from the region, Fatima-Zohra Tamoh, who is teaching African history at Rabat University, thought a way was needed to help women earn their living and stop relying on a man for their existence. "I thought of making them responsible for themselves, to make them realize their fate lay in their hands," she said.

It took her a long time to persuade the women that working in a cooperative would not demean them or raise their community's hostility. "The idea of working in a cooperative has a pejorative connotation. Only very poor people normally go there. I had to rely on friends and relatives to organize meetings with women to explain the way we wanted to work," she said.

Not only local prejudice caused problems. Foreign buyers shunned Moroccan carpets after reports that little girls as young as six and seven often worked in appalling conditions, falling ill with rheumatism and pneumonia. "They often stood all day before a loom and earned only 60 dirhams [about \$7] a month," said Tamoh. "When I started three years ago, the women were very reluctant and I had to meet them more than 10 times before they agreed. Even then, some did not turn up the day we decided to start working but others replaced them."

But there are still taboos over married women working and divorced ones are also fer-

tered by prejudices. The workers are all unmarried women at present. But the work has given them impetus for other things, said Tamoh.

About 67 percent of Moroccan women are illiterate, with the worst rate being in the countryside. The Education Ministry, trying to eradicate this, offers lessons which Tamoh's women took. "Being illiterate, this new activity triggered their willingness to learn writing and reading and they got their first identity cards," she said.

"If we had more support and we could find export markets, we think of giving education on health, family planning, and open a kindergarten to encourage married women to work."

Morocco's carpet industry, which has 45 cooperatives, has been hit by both the child labor row and poor quality. Carpet exports fell to 274.4 million dirhams in 1995 from 393.4 million in 1985, the Handicrafts Ministry said. "The government has moved to prevent children's labor but the decline in carpets is also due to the fact that German importers lost confidence in local producers who often bypassed them to make deals with retailers," a spokesman added, describing the Germans as the "bourse" of the carpet world.

Tamoh blames both local producers and the authorities for the decline in quality. "It was first made of pure wool but gradually, with lax control of the authorities, it has come out with mixed products which have been avoided by foreigners."

She insists on only pure wool being used in the cooperative which produces about 30 carpets a month, with four women taking about 20

days to produce a medium-sized carpet, three meters long and two meters wide.

Each region has its own model, with carpets from Rabat's region and the Atlas Mountains the most popular. They sell for between 2,400 and 8,000 dirhams, but with workshop rent, electricity charges and wool, little is left. The women each get about 600 dirhams a month in pay.

"So far we have only local buyers but they are not numerous. We have to organize exhibitions to make our products known and this also costs money."

The ministry official said locally produced carpets were subject to control, being stamped in official categories ranging from extra superior, to superior, good and ordinary. "The good quality depends on the material used and also the number of knots per meter square, the color must stand the washing, the more knots there are per meter square, the better the quality is," he said.

Extra superior quality costs between 800 and 2,000 dirhams per square meter and a superior one between 400 and 700 dirhams.

Tamoh wants to prove Moroccan carpets can meet international quality standards and to help Moroccan women. She is an active member of a women's union which initiated the project, and said the women were now looking at setting up a fund to grant small loans to the neediest of them.

"They already lend small sums to women," she said, "but once they have working capital, it will be possible to lend bigger amounts to the poorest people." (Reuters)

## EARTHLY CONCERNS

### Poverty plus starvation equals a vicious downward cycle

By D'VORA BEN SHAUL

Can there be a second "green revolution" in worldwide agriculture? And can it save the world from starvation?

Many agronomists believe that there can be an effective revolution that will boost world food production and that this will make up for the rapid increase of the number of people to be fed. These agronomists believe that more fertilizers are the answer to the world's food problems.

But Lester Brown, president of Worldwatch, a Washington-based environmental information service, believes otherwise. Brown, who was a part of the "green revolution" of the '60s that doubled worldwide food production, says that there cannot be a second such success story. Brown points out that not only have populations risen at an unprecedented rate but that we are running out of arable land and water for irrigation.

Moreover, he says, most countries that would reap the benefits

of drastically increased food production are simply not economically able to afford the amount of fertilizers needed to make such a program possible. American and Canadian farmers use from 100 to 500 kilograms of nitrogen per hectare in order to get the bumper crops they usually enjoy. But in Asia, despite the much lauded "green revolution" only 30 kgs per hectare are used, in Latin America 15 kgs and in Africa only 4 kgs. Even this, says Brown, makes crop production too expensive to be available to the poorer people of the world and despite potential yields crops remain poor and, indeed, inadequate.

There 800 million people in the world who are chronically undernourished and 200 million of them are under five years old. One-seventh of the people in the world do not have access to the available grain stores in any case because they are too impoverished to buy food. In an ideal world this would not happen, but the facts are that a second revolution would produce

a glut of food in Kansas but in Katmandu people would still starve because they lack the means to purchase either the fertilizers and water to grow food or the money to buy from the surpluses produced elsewhere.

Although lip service is paid by most major organizations to the idea of sustainable agricultural self-sufficiency, Brown points out that in some areas the soil is so poor, the droughts so severe and the poverty so great that the people who live there are starving even in a world where food surpluses abound.

It is poverty, not food scarcity that dooms these millions to starvation, says Brown. What we need is a world program against poverty because it simply doesn't matter how much food is grown in the world if many people have no access to it. Exactly how such a program could be implemented is not clear, but it seems fairly sure that unless there is such a program millions more will starve to death in the coming decade.

**7** Tomorrow's LOTTO - minimum first prize  
**7,000,000**

LOTTO makes more millionaires Laugh all the way to the bank

Lottery no. 5/87



Mifal Hapayis



## BUSINESS

in brief

### Hapoalim issuing long-term promissory notes

Bank Hapoalim plans to issue long-term promissory notes (capital notes similar to bonds) abroad in an attempt to raise \$200 million. The proceeds of the issue will be used to expand Bank Hapoalim's domestic and overseas activities and to raise long-term foreign currency reserves, bank officials said.

The capital will be raised through Hapoalim International, a subsidiary company, in several stages between February and July. Hapoalim expects to raise \$50m. by the end of March 1997. The issue will be conducted without an underwriter. The promissory notes will be fully guaranteed by the bank. The notes' last redemption date is July 2006. It is possible to purchase the notes through Bank Hapoalim's overseas subsidiaries.

Galit Lipkis Beck

### Gleitman quits Industry and Trade Ministry

Industry and Trade Ministry director-general Dr. Yehoshua Gleitman yesterday announced his resignation, to take effect from the end of March. Only appointed in August, Gleitman made it clear to Minister Naftali Bennett that the appointment was only temporary. Prior to his current post, Gleitman served for four years as the Chief Scientist.

So far, Gleitman has not indicated whether he has already accepted a new job, but it is understood he prefers a move back into the private sector. The ministry has yet to announce who will replace him as director-general.

David Harris

### Super-Sol merger with Shekem approved

The Antitrust Authority has approved Super-Sol's merger with Shekem. The approval enables Super-Sol, one of the country's dominant supermarket chains to acquire Shekem's food stores. A number of restrictive terms were attached to the approval to prevent Super-Sol from taking advantage of its size to the disadvantage of suppliers and consumers.

Galit Lipkis Beck

### PA promises to Israel debt demand

The Palestinian Authority has promised to respond today to Israel's demands that it pay its debts to Israeli firms. The commitment was made yesterday by PA chairman Yasser Arafat's economic adviser Mohammed Rashid, during a meeting with Treasury director-general David Brodet. The debts, said by the Treasury to amount to NIS 75 million include moneys owed to Bezeq, Mekorot, and Israel Electric Corporation.

David Harris

### Krichman up in arms about milk imports

Agriculture Ministry director-general Danny Krichman last night declared war on the Treasury and Industry and Trade Ministry over the decision to allow the import of milk products without customs duty. Referring to the planned import of 100 million liters of milk powder and albumen, Krichman said this would effectively prevent the increase of milk production in Israel. "There is no reason to import foreign milk products when we can produce them with ease in Israel," he said.

David Harris

### Israel, China to cooperate on customs

Israel and China will sign an agreement later this month, on closer customs cooperation. Customs and VAT Director Motti Ayalon will travel to China for final talks and the signing ceremony. Israel has already signed similar agreements on the exchange of information and joint investigations with eight other nations.

David Harris

### Dovrat Shrem sets up foreign residents' fund

Dovrat Shrem Investment Management has established a foreign residents investment fund in an attempt to expand its activities with foreign investors.

The company has also decided to expand its brokerage services to foreign investors. Dovrat Shrem Investment Management, which is a member of the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, is a subsidiary of the publicly traded Dovrat Shrem investment group.

Galit Lipkis Beck

### Polished diamond exports up

Polished diamond exports totalled \$427 million net in January, according to figures published yesterday by the Industry and Trade Ministry. This represents a seven percent increase on the equivalent total last year.

David Harris

## Gov't fails to achieve budget surplus in January

Brodet: '97 growth may fall short of 4% target

By DAVID HARRIS

The government announced yesterday it registered a NIS 1.283 billion fiscal deficit last month, failing to meet its own goal of spending less than it earned.

This deficit comprises the domestic (NIS 1.146b.) and external (NIS 136 million) deficits. Over the last 12 months, during last year's record deficit, the overall deficit was NIS 9.744b.

The 1997 target is for the deficit to be no greater than 2.8 percent of the gross domestic product, something Treasury director-general David Brodet insists the government must achieve, even if it means a further NIS 1b.-NIS 2b. cut in the first quarter.

Meanwhile, Brodet painted a gloomy picture of the year ahead, saying it is quite possible that eco-

nomical growth will fall short of the 4% target.

He made the admission during a fierce attack on the Bank of Israel's monetary policy, including the accusation that the central bank wasted up to NIS 40b. over the last two years by purchasing foreign currency.

It will still be possible to achieve 4% growth if the fiscal and monetary institutions begin discussing a joint economic policy, something Brodet claimed the central bank has so far been unprepared to do.

The continuation of low exchange rate/high interest rate policy is likely to stunt growth in the coming year, said Brodet, who is expected to leave the Finance Ministry in the next few months.

"I'm not in favor of a one-off interest rate cut of 2%-3%, but I don't think we need to wait 30 days to make changes," said Brodet.

When asked if a weekly cut of some 0.25% to 0.5% is the way forward, Brodet said it is a definite possibility.

While apportioning blame for the economy's poor performance firmly on the bank, Brodet fell short of calling for the resignation of governor Jacob Frankel.

The Bank of Israel seems to be managing its monetary policy with only one aim - lowering inflation, according to Brodet. But, he added, it is failing to take into account other vital aspects of the economy, such as employment and the balance of payments.

The bank said in reaction that as far as the state of the economy in general is concerned the blame lies more with those responsible for fiscal policy.

"The problem of balancing Israel's economic policy results from the destructive budgetary control, beginning in 1995 and escalat-

ing in 1996," said a statement issued by the bank.

As a consequence, the government faced the NIS 7b. budget deficit but did nothing to correct the situation in 1996, the statement pointed out. "Throughout this period, as is its duty, the bank has been working to achieve the inflation target set by the government."

Economic growth, could have been at least 0.5% higher last year, Brodet said, criticizing the bank for not acting to cut interest rates, but preferring a wait-and-see approach.

Senior bank officials said it will only act to cut rates once the 1997 NIS 7.2b. budget cut is actually implemented.

The bank called for cooperation between the fiscal and monetary institutions in implementing the country's approved budget, inflation targets and planned structural changes.

## 3Com to invest \$300m. by 1999

By GALIT LIPKIS BECK

In an effort to expand internationally, data networking giant 3Com Corporation intends to invest close to \$300 million here by 1999, company CEO Eric Benhamou said yesterday.

Over the next two years, the Santa Clara-based company plans to strengthen its existing Israeli research laboratories and production site, Benhamou said.

The company, which recorded \$2.33 billion in revenues and net income of \$177.9m. last year, also plans to invest in acquisitions and strategic partnerships with Israeli companies.

"We will continue to invest in manufacturing. As a result we expect many sub-contracting investments here," said Benhamou, adding that the Israeli high-tech market is growing quickly and more than 15 percent of the world-wide datacom products are currently being developed here.

3Com has invested over \$100m. here over the last two years. The company made its first local investment at the end of 1994, when it acquired a subsidiary of NICE Systems currently known as 3Com Israel.

The company recently opened a sales office in Israel which will also cover Jordan, the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

"The company intends to enlarge its market share in the area and establish business relationships with Israeli companies," said Adar Eyal, the company's area sales manager. The sales office is part of the 3Com Near East and Africa Sales Office, which was established in May 1993.

3Com also has two Israel-based research and development divisions, NMD and NCD. Based in Rehovot, NMD develops network management software, while NCD of Herzliya Pituah creates ATM products.

The company also intends to open a research and development center in Haifa, which will serve as an extension of the projects carried out in the Herzliya branch, Benhamou said.

About 3% of its 5,800 employees are based here. By the year 2000 the number of employees here is expected to grow to 5% of the company's staff, Benhamou said.

"ATM switches are built here," he said. "This is one of the most advanced products to be built in the world."

In the coming years, 3Com - which has branches in 124 countries - also intends to expand its community investment program to Israel, mainly in education centers.



### Danone buys 20% of Strauss Dairy Concern

Strauss shareholders, company president Michael Strauss (left) and Raya Strauss Ben-Dror (right), sign an agreement yesterday with Danone Group president Frank Riboud by which the French-based company will buy 20 percent of the Strauss Dairy concern, the country's leading manufacturer of yogurt, dairy desserts and cheeses. Strauss says the strategic cooperation with Danone is an integral part of its policy to globalize while also strengthening its position in the local market. Danone is a multinational corporation with annual sales of \$16.4 billion.

(Text: Galit Lipkis Beck, Photo: Dana Sturman/Israel Sun)

## Bank workers plan Friday strikes

By GALIT LIPKIS BECK

The Histadrut's bank workers division intend to strike every

Friday, in a unilateral attempt to move to a five-day work week, heads of the unions said at the start of a meeting yesterday evening.

The bank workers intend to protest against the Antitrust Court decision to forbid coordination between the banks concerning the entire banking sector's shift from a six to a five-day work week.

The banks' 40,000 workers have been pushing for a shorter work week for more than two years.

Heads of the workers union met yesterday evening to decide what measures to take to force the banks' transition to a shorter week, in line with the rest of the economy.

At the start of the meeting, the workers representatives proposed a shutdown of the entire banking system every Friday, starting this

week. Head of Bank Discount workers committee Rikki Bechar proposed an immediate shutdown of the entire banking system "everyday until a solution is found."

At the end of last week, heads of Bank Hapoalim, Bank Leumi and Discount Bank workers committees met with Histadrut Chairman Amir Peretz to discuss what measures to take.

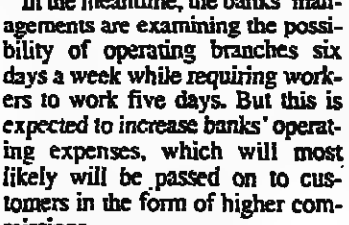
The managements of the banks support the transition but are legally restricted from putting it into effect since the request to the Antitrust Court was submitted by the Association of Banks and bank management.

The court rejected the request on the grounds it would hinder competition and instructed the banks to independently file requests to move to a five-day work week.

The Histadrut will support the banking division if they decide to go ahead with a strike, said Peretz. "The decision of the Antitrust Court is irrelevant to bank employees-management work relations even though it has created a very complicated situation whereby the banks' managements are limited in their ability to sign an agreement with us," said Peretz.

The Histadrut declared a labor dispute already one year ago, making it possible to declare a strike almost immediately, said Histadrut division head Zion Shema.

In the meantime, the banks' managements are examining the possibility of operating branches six days a week while requiring workers to work five days. But this is expected to increase banks' operating expenses, which will most likely be passed on to customers in the form of higher commissions.



## 'Sunday Times': Plan exists to privatize London Underground

LONDON (Reuters) - A secret plan to privatize the London Underground may be revealed this week, to link in with a pre-election privatization theme, according to a front-page report in *The Sunday Times*.

The scheme was revealed in confidential minutes from last week's cabinet summit at Chequers, which were leaked to *The Sunday Times*, the report said.

A Department of Transport spokesman said yesterday that no decision on privatization of the

London Underground had yet been made.

The spokesman said he could not comment on purportedly leaked documents.

"It is true to say that the government is examining the potential for applying the principles of privatization to the London Underground, but no decision has yet been made," he said.

He said the newspaper report neglected to state that there would be a hefty regime to put caps on fares.

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German mark (DM 200,000)	1.625	1.625	2.125	
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.625	0.750	1.000	
Yen (10 million yen)				
(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)				
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German mark	2.023	2.046	1.96	2.026
Pound sterling	6.234	6.320	6.15	6.248
French franc	0.581	0.627	0.58	0.600
Japanese yen (100)	2.691	2.788	2.64	2.726
Dutch florin	1.782	1.812	1.76	1.803
Swiss franc	2.304	2.348	2.28	2.310
Swedish krona	0.454	0.488	0.44	0.458
Norwegian krona	0.509	0.512	0.49	0.504
Danish krone	0.324	0.334	0.31	0.307
Finnish mark	0.672	0.694	0.66	0.688
Canadian dollar	2.405	2.498	2.34	2.452
Australian dollar	2.402	2.532	2.45	2.621
S. African rand	0.712	0.728	0.68	0.701
Belgian franc (10)	0.970	0.988	0.95	0.981
Austrian schilling (10)	2.843	2.811	2.79	2.771
Italian lire (1000)	2.052	2.054	1.99	2.043
Jordanian dinar	4.870	4.870	4.58	4.693
Egyptian pound	0.830	1.010	0.85	1.011
ECU	3.872	3.937		3.918
Irish punt	5.207	5.287	5.11	5.210
Spanish peseta (100)	2.976	2.408	2.32	2.361

\*These rates vary according to bank. \*\*Bank of Israel. SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

مصارف



# US, China ink textile deal

By MURE DICKIE

BEIJING (Reuters) - China and the US signed a new textile agreement yesterday in an eleventh-hour deal that ended the threat of a cross-Pacific trade war and was hailed by both sides as a breakthrough.

US officials said their main achievement was gaining assured access for the first time to Chinese textile markets, adding that it also granted China a US import quota slightly larger than the previous 1994 textile pact.

Millions of dollars in penalties slapped by Washington on Chinese imports remained in force under the deal, although Beijing had agreed to withdraw its threat of retaliation, top US textile negotiator Rita Hayes said after the signing.

"For the first time the United States has market access with China... and this is something we felt very strongly about," Hayes told reporters. "It is now a situation

that we have a 'level playing field.' The four-year textile accord was signed by Hayes and Li Dongsheng, China's chief negotiator and director of the trade management department of the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation.

Officials of both sides welcomed the deal, which was hammered out during negotiations that ran far beyond their original three-day schedule to become a grueling six-day marathon topped by all-night sessions.

"After six days of hard work, the delegations have reached a rather ideal conclusion," said Chinese Foreign Trade Minister Wu Yi, who attended the signing ceremony.

Officials of both sides declined to give details of the accord, but Hayes said it would create US jobs by allowing exports while slightly increasing China's US import quota.

The talks focused on renewal of the 1994 textile accord and resolution of a dispute over US penalties

on Chinese exports, with market access for US goods to China also a major stumbling block, officials said.

Breakthrough came during a one-day extension to the final deadline for renewal of the Sino-US accord, which had originally been scheduled to expire on December 31 but was extended by one month to allow time to reach a compromise.

"I think this morning at the beginning we were unhappy with each other, but now we have become friends," US negotiator Li told Hayes during the signing of the accord.

The accord ended the threat of a Sino-US trade war, which had loomed after Washington slapped \$19 million in penalties on Chinese imports last September, accusing Beijing of shipping textiles through third countries to evade quota restrictions.

China had threatened to retaliate by temporarily banning imports of some US textiles, farm goods

and alcoholic drinks but delayed the action to allow time for further talks.

After the signing of the textile accord, Beijing announced it was calling off its retaliatory measures, but US negotiator Hayes said Washington's penalties remained in force.

"The transshipment charges that were made in September still stand as they did," she said without elaborating.

Access to China's huge and growing markets was also an issue in other Sino-US meetings in Beijing last week.

US trade official Lee Sands held two days of talks in the Chinese capital to discuss China's delayed accession to the World Trade Organization, long a source of bilateral friction.

"The agreement is once again proof that China and the United States can settle their trade disputes through negotiations based on equality and mutual benefits," said negotiator Li.

## TASE REPORT

## Indexes up almost 3%

Mishtanim 249.94  
▲2.72%

Maof 257.37  
▲2.86%

By FELICE MARANZ

Stock indexes rose yesterday as the shekel fell against the dollar in recent days, boosting exporters, particularly chemical companies, and sending shares indexes close to all-time highs.

Israeli companies traded in New York also rose on Friday, prompting rising prices in Tel Aviv.

Koor Industries Ltd. led all gaining stocks, jumping some three percent.

Koor, the country's largest industrial concern with interests in telecommunications, electronics, agricultural and building materials, rose following gains in its American Depository Receipts traded in New York, which rose 1/2 from Wednesday, the last day of trading in the US to affect Tel Aviv, to 19 3/4 on Friday.

The Maof rose 2.86% to 257.37 and the Two-Sided Index went up 2.72% to 249.94.

The general bond index rose 0.25%. The Maof Index hit an all-time of 258.37 on January 16, 1994.

Of 969 shares trading across the exchange, almost eight times as many shares rose as fell. Some NIS 175.4 million worth of shares changed hands, NIS 10.5m. above Thursday's level and more than double December's daily average of NIS 84.6m.

"Stocks in the US were higher and the shekel has weakened; these are things that add to a positive atmosphere," said Ella Golan, an analyst at First International Bank. "The public is now interested in buying stocks, and foreign money is coming in as well."

(Bloomberg)

## COMMODITIES ROUNDUP

## Precious metals close lower

By MICHAEL ZWERNER

Most precious metals futures closed lower on Friday, with palladium ending the day higher on trade buying and concerns over Russian supplies.

Sources also said there were concerns over the Russians not being able to deliver palladium due to the inability to obtain export licenses.

Gold closed lower and was helped by gross domestic product data released on Friday that showed inflation was not a threat.

April gold closed down \$1.50 at \$346.00; March silver is down 3.5 cents at \$4.92; April platinum is down \$2.90 at \$352.50 and March palladium is up \$3.00 at \$126.75.

High grade copper futures closed higher as the March contract attempted to break resistance at the close but was unable to sustain the momentum to convincingly push through.

London Metal Exchange (LME) warehouse stocks increased by 26,100 metric tons (MT), bringing the total amount of stocks to 191,750 MT.

This is the highest amount since early October 1996.

Copper prices also were propped up as trade buying came in at the lows to help support prices. Funds also were good purchasers of all base metals, said a trader.

COMEX March high-grade copper futures closed up 255 points at \$1.0375.

New York Cotton Futures settled higher on mostly local buying, with some gains being made near to Friday's close.

Favorable weather conditions exist for the developing crop in northern Argentina and Paraguay, and there have been no significant delays of the Indian harvest.

Cool wet weather has returned to eastern Australia, cotton areas, which is unfavorable for developing crops as they require warmer temperatures.

China has reportedly asked for an increase in cotton purchases in an effort to augment farmers' incomes prior to Chinese New Year.

The March contract settled 30 points higher at 74.95.

March world sugar futures settled slightly higher on fund and commission house buying, according to a floor trader. Commercial traders were on both sides of the market in early trading.

Analysts are reporting that due to buying by Indonesia, while sugar supplies in Thailand are getting tight. However, raw sugar, the basis for the New York contract, still waits for purchases because of low premiums and an absence of Chinese buying.

Mostly favorable weather conditions exist for sugarcane harvests in Cuba and India, and for cane growing areas of China and northeastern Brazil. New-crop sugarcane along the Queensland Coast is experiencing favorable weather.

The March contract settled six points higher at 10.45 and the May contract was one point higher at 10.41 cents. *Commodity Trading, Ltd.*

## Kuwait to privatize fuel stations

KUWAIT (Reuters) - Kuwait's Supreme Petroleum Council has approved the privatization of 30 roadside petrol stations, *al-Wakeel* newspaper reported yesterday.

The council approved the privatization of 30 fuel stations, as a first trial to privatize other stations," the daily said.

The council met on Saturday under the oil-rich state's foreign minister, Sheikh Sabah Ahmad Sabah, also a deputy prime minister.

The state's Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) said last year it was preparing a timetable for privatizing some operations, including domestic fuel stations, which in Kuwait are all owned by the government.

Since 1994 Kuwait has sold its stake in some 18 local firms for over \$2 billion.

The data from the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange are unavailable today due to technical difficulties.



## Killing BSE cows

A worker prepares a BSE-suspected Galloway cow carcass for disposal yesterday at a knacker's yard in Herzberg, about 120 kilometers north of Berlin. The German Agriculture Ministry has already ordered the culling of over 5,000 cattle imported from Britain and Switzerland, and another 40,000 offspring may also be killed. (Reuters)

## Egypt mulling sale of four state banks

DAVOS, Switzerland (Reuters) - The investment banker son of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said over the weekend that the government was studying privatization of at least one of the big four public-sector banks.

Gamal Mubarak, executive director of London-based company Medinvest Associates and an active participant in consultations on Egyptian economic policy, said privatization was the second stage in the government's plans for the banking sector.

The first stage, which started last year and is already well advanced, was the sale of the stakes the state banks held in joint-venture banks, he said in an interview.

"The second stage is to look at ways and means whereby you start privatizing one of the state operations and there is a lot of talk and discussion and even studies in that regard."

"I don't have any information as to when, or which bank or what are the modalities, but I know that this is under discussion and under serious discussion," he said.

Egyptian ministers themselves have not spoken openly about selling any of the big banks - widely seen as the next big step in the privatization program. In earlier stages of economic reform, the government put the banks in the category of strategic assets the state would hang on to.

The four banks - National Bank of Egypt, Banque Misr, Banque du

Cairo and Bank of Alexandria - double as important instruments of government policy through the influence they have over interest rates and investment priorities.

Mubarak said he also saw corporatization of the state's National Telecommunications Organization (ARENTO) as a step toward some form of eventual privatization.

He noted that the government took a similar step in the early 1990s when it set up state holding companies to look after public-sector companies which have since been sold.

Gamal Mubarak, whose company advises on investment in the Middle East and helps Middle Eastern companies reorganize their finances, said he was happy to tell clients that Egypt was now "a very attractive investment destination. The message is finally getting out. Egypt is definitely on the hot list of a lot of investment bankers."

Asked his prognosis for the Egyptian stock market, where prices suddenly started rising in the autumn, he said he did not expect a major correction in price levels.

"You have to take into consideration that in the year and a half before there was quite a slump... so in a sense we've been gaining some ground we had lost."

"If you look at the issues in the stock exchange which have been appreciated, you can make an argument that many of them have appreciated on fundamentals. There's a lot of very healthy earnings growth at the moment," he said.

## Massachusetts upsets EU, Japan with Burma policy

BOSTON (Reuters) - Massachusetts's foreign policy, prohibiting the state from having dealings with firms that do business in Burma, has upset both the European Union and Japan.

"We have complained to the (US) State Department and US Trade Representative's office" and a Japanese trade delegation has met with Massachusetts trade officials, a spokesman for Japan's Consul General's Office in Boston told Reuters. "We are waiting for a response. We expect a prompt response."

The European Union claims the 1996 Massachusetts state law is "a

breach of US international obligations and as such could have a damaging effect on bilateral EU-US relations," according to a letter EU Ambassador Hugo Paemen sent to Massachusetts Gov. William Weld last week.

But a spokesman for the governor said both Japan and EU "will be waiting for a while." "You know, Massachusetts was the first state to boycott South Africa," Weld's spokesman, Jose Irujes said. "All the others followed us."

"And that is exactly what has Japan and the EU concerned. We are concerned that this may spread," said the consul's

spokesman, who requested anonymity. Since Weld signed the law last August, it has inspired several US firms, including Apple Computer and Hewlett-Packard to cut ties to Burma.

Some 10 US cities, including San Francisco, also have passed selective purchasing laws against firms doing business in Burma, citing the brutality of the military junta that controls the Southeast Asian nation.

But Massachusetts is the only state and the largest market so far to boycott such firms. The law parallels the old South

Africa measure. The state issued a list of firms with which it will no longer do business, including some 30 Japanese companies such as Sony, the Bank of Tokyo, and Mitsubishi. A 1994 Commerce Department report showed there were 125 Japanese firms employing 13,000 Americans in Massachusetts.

Similar figures for the EU were not available. "Massachusetts and Japan have a good relationship."

We hope this does not hurt that relationship," the consul's spokesman said.

## WTO chief: Global telecom pact imminent

By ROBERT EVANS

DAVOS, Switzerland (Reuters) - World Trade Organization chief Renato Ruggiero and European Union Trade Commissioner Sir Leon Brittan indicated over the weekend there were good chances for a global accord in two weeks to free telecommunications markets.

Free speaking at the World Economic Forum in Davos, they cautioned that obstacles remained to a pact opening up the sector worth some \$600 billion a year.

"All the signs are that we are on a good track," Ruggiero said, pointing to new or revised offers from 10 countries recorded on Friday at WTO headquarters in Geneva,

where talks on a deal face a February 15 deadline.

The prospects for an accord, talks on which were originally part of the 1986-93 Uruguay Round of world trade negotiations, are "looking quite good," Brittan told a session at the annual gathering of global political and business leaders.

"But there is still work to be done," he added.

Ruggiero, who has set achievement of an accord as one of his top priorities for the two-year-old WTO, said it was too early to announce victory in the talks.

"In multilateral trade negotiations, you can never say you are at the end until you really are at the end," he said. But progress in building up the

mass of offers from both developed and developing countries was encouraging.

After the latest round of talks in Geneva on Friday, the chairman of the negotiations said a total of 54 countries - nearly all the key players in the sector - had now submitted

proposals for opening their domestic markets.

Another 14 are expected to make new offers or come up with packages improving what they already have on the table in the next few days, said the official, Neil McMillan of Britain.

## WHERE TO GO

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Wife helpline for battered women 02-451-4111, 03-548-1133 (also in Russian), 07-637-6310, 08-855-3508 (also in Amharic).  
Rappe Crisis Center (24 hours), Tel Aviv 523-4810, 544-8181 (men).  
Jerusalem 625-5558, Haifa 853-0533, Eilat 633-1977.  
Hadassah Medical Organization - Israel Cancer Association support service 02-624-7678).



## Maccabi TA blasts into hoop State Cup semis

By ELI GRONER

Last night's second leg of the State Cup semifinals featured little excitement and no surprises. Maccabi Tel Aviv and Kiryat Motzkin completed sweeps, while Maccabi Ramat Gan went into cruise control against Holon, with the aggregate victory assured. The trio will be joined in the semifinals by either Hapoel Jerusalem or Bnei Herzliya. The semifinals will take place on March 20.

**Maccabi Tel Aviv 78**  
**Maccabi Ramat Gan 74**  
**Maccabi Holon 80**  
**Maccabi Rishon 74**

Rishon LeZion changed coaches - from Roni Busani to Hanech Mintz - but it's stuck with the same players, leaving little hope for an upset.

Rishon followed the same frustrating pattern it has all year, falling behind by a lot, and then reeling off a good run when the game is all but over.

Incredibly enough, after managing only 24 first-half points, Rishon outscored Tel Aviv 50-35 in the second half in Yael Eliyahu, but it was too little too late.

Doron Sheffer paced the victor's balanced scoring attack with 18 points, while Alex Nikolitz led all scorers with 20.

Kiryat Motzkin 76  
Elizur Rishon LeZion 71  
Kiryat Motzkin became the first Second Division club to reach the semis since 1983, by completing the home and home sweep of the overmatched Rishon club.

Although the two clubs are separated in the Second Division table by a mere victory, the vast difference between the teams was apparent in Motzkin's road win. Erez Hazan had 17 points for the victors.

Hapoel Holon 80  
Maccabi Ramat Gan 74  
Holon's win wasn't enough to offset its 24-point deficit (95-71) entering the game. Last night's moral victory in Holon was the club's first since November 20.

Niv Bugin's club, which started off the season promisingly, will now have to focus on staving off league relegation. Ramat Gan, which has maintained its status as the most pleasant surprise of the league this year, can now look forward to the semis.

In tonight's action, Bnei Herzliya will try to overcome a 15-point deficit at home against Hapoel Jerusalem. The game will be broadcast live on Channel 5 at 8:30 pm.

## Hill's 4th triple-double wins for Pistons

EAST RUTHERFORD (AP) - Grant Hill had his fourth triple-double of the season with 22 points, 11 assists and 11 rebounds as the Detroit Pistons won their fifth straight game, 90-75 over the New Jersey Nets on Saturday.

It was the 15th triple-double of Hill's career and his third against the Nets. He shot 7-of-14 from the field and 8-for-8 from the line, and grabbed all of his rebounds on the defensive end.

Otis Thorpe added 23 points on 10-for-12 shooting that included six dunks, and Detroit's three other starters - Theo Ratliff, Joe Dumars and Lindsey Hunter - each scored 11.

The Pistons held their opponent under 100 points for the 24th straight time - four shy of the NBA record set by the Fort Wayne Zollner Pistons in 1954.

**Raptors 110, Suns 86**  
Walt Williams tied a team record he already shared with two others, making six 3-point baskets in a 33-point performance that led host Toronto over slump-ridden Phoenix.

Williams also pulled down 12 rebounds as Toronto won for the

10th time in 15 home games while handing Phoenix its sixth straight loss. Wesley Person led the Suns - losers of 11 of their last 12 road games - with 23 points.

Marcus Camby and Doug Christie added 17 points each, while Popeye Jones had 16 points and 14 rebounds for the Raptors.

**Heat 71, Cavaliers 66**  
Host Cleveland narrowly escaped setting a second straight franchise scoring low but did not escape Miami, which made six straight free throws in the final seconds.

After P.J. Brown made two foul shots with 5.8 seconds left, Terrell Brandon raced to the other end and put in a layup at the buzzer for the final margin, pushing the low-scoring Cavaliers past the dubious mark they set in a 75-65 loss to the Knicks Wednesday.

The teams' 137 points combined is the sixth lowest two-team total since the 24-second shot clock was introduced for the 1954-55 season.

Alonzo Mourning led Miami with 15 points, and Brown had 12 points and 13 rebounds.

NBA - Saturday's results: Detroit 90, New Jersey 75; Toronto 110, Phoenix 86; Miami 71, Cleveland 66; Dallas 100, Utah 97; Sacramento 113, Denver 107; Philadelphia 109, Milwaukee 100; LA Clippers 110, Golden State 98.

# Shearer's 3 saves Magpies

NEWCASTLE (AP) - Three late goals by England striker Alan Shearer - the last one three minutes into injury time - scrambled a 4-3 victory for Newcastle Sunday after Leicester had threatened an upset win at St James Park.

The visitor led 3-1 with 13 minutes to go before Shearer scored his trio to take his total for the season to 23.

The England striker powered home a free kick in the 77th minute and, seven minutes later, equalized with a low shot that went through a defender's legs and beat American goalkeeper Kasey Keller from 16 yards.

The game looked set for a tie when Newcastle put together a slick, four-man move and Robert Lee pulled Keller out of position and squared the ball to Shearer who tapped home from two yards out for his third.

The Magpies stay in fourth place but are five points behind leader Manchester United. A loss would have put them almost out of contention.

"It was significant that we had to win to stay in touch with other teams winning on Saturday," Shearer said. "It means we're still in with a shout." Newcastle had a great start by taking the lead after only three minutes. Robbie Elliott had space and time to shoot goalwards and Keller was beaten by a deflection off the boot of defender Julian Watts and the ball squeezed between the goalkeeper and his right hand post.

The American goalkeeper made stunning diving saves to keep out two shots from Lee before City, who had lost their last seven visits to St James's Park, turned the game around with three goals in 11 minutes.

Matt Elliott headed home from long range from Gary Parker's center in the 57th minute. Steve Claridge shot home from close range after slack Newcastle defending in their own penalty area and then Emile Heskey beat the offside trap and ran almost from the halfway line to fire the third in the 68th.

In Saturday's games, Eric Cantona fired a late winner for Manchester United in a 2-1 victory



NET GAINS - Alan Shearer celebrates after scoring his third goal against Leicester yesterday. Newcastle won 4-3.

ry at Southampton to maintain its one-point lead atop the standings.

Liverpool moved up to second with a 1-0 win over Derby thanks to Stan Collymore's strike and Arsenal slipped to third after being held 0-0 at Leeds.

In Division One, Manchester City's improvement under Frank Clark continued with a 4-1 victory

at Oxford United with Georgian forward Georgi Kinkladze scoring twice and setting up the other two goals.

City is unbeaten in five games under former Forest manager Clark and moved up one place to fourth from last.

England miffed over UEFA's support of Germany  
England won't just be taking on

Italy February 12 in the chase for a 1998 World Cup place. On the same day it will be battling UEFA for the right to host the 2006 games.

The English Football Association was stunned to hear that soccer's European body had put its weight behind Germany's bid to stage the event and had suggested England should scrap its own.

But Prime minister John Major

## Injury sidelines Graf in showdown with Hingis

TOKYO (Reuters) - An injured Steffi Graf pulled out of the "dream final" of the Pan Pacific indoor tennis tournament here yesterday adding to woes that have already rained 1997 into a jinx year.

Graf, the world's top ranked woman player, withdrew with an injured left knee about an hour before the scheduled start of her much-anticipated match against teenage sensation Martina Hingis of Switzerland, the world No. 2.

Graf, of Germany, said the injury, which she first suffered six months ago, flared up on a serve during her 6-1, 7-5 semifinal win over Brenda Schultz-McCarthy of the Netherlands on Saturday.

Midway through the match, Graf had the knee strapped and had physiotherapy and ice treatment afterwards.

The tournament was played on carpet, a fast, unyielding surface which Graf said was the "worst possible for back and knee injuries."

Tournament officials said Graf's injury was a "severely aggravated patella tendon at the bottom front of the left kneecap." Physiotherapist Kathryn

Martin said it would be several days before doctors could determine the extent of the injury.

"This type of injury can clear up in a week or two or sometimes can take longer," Martin said.

Graf plans to return to Germany immediately.

"I just hope it's not very serious," the 26-year-old Graf said. "I hope we can calm it down pretty soon."

However no one was more disappointed than Graf, who arrived in Japan nine days ago seemed on a comeback trail after a disastrous start to the year.

Tournament top seed Graf, who last week was knocked out of the Australian Open in the fourth round and then saw her father convicted of tax evasion, had not dropped a set in her three matches en route to the final.

Graf limped slightly when she walked on to the court for the victory presentation to the 16-year-old Hingis who appears poised to dethrone Graf as the queen of women's tennis.

"I'm really very, very sorry. I'm really very, very disappointed," a dejected Graf told the crowd which gave her lengthy, sympathetic applause.

## Lemieux at 599

PITTSBURGH (AP) - Mario Lemieux scored the 598th and 599th goals of his career in the first period and the Pittsburgh Penguins, slumping since going unbeaten in 14 games, defeated the Phoenix Coyotes 4-1 on Saturday.

Lemieux, expected to retire after this season, needs one goal to become the seventh player in NHL history to score 600 goals and the fifth with 600 goals and 600 assists.

Pittsburgh had lost three of four since going on a 12-0-2 streak, winning only Sunday in Montreal as Lemieux tied an NHL record by scoring four goals in the third period.

Rookie Patrick Lalime stopped 29 of 30 shots Saturday to improve to 16-2-2 since injuries to Ken Wregget and Tom Barrasso left him as Pittsburgh's starting goaltender. Lalime missed Wednesday's 3-1 loss in Buffalo with the flu.

Red Wings 4, Blues 1  
Brendan Shanahan scored twice and goaltender Mike Vernon continued his mastery over St. Louis

by stopping 25 shots in Detroit's away victory.

Vernon is 16-1-1 in his career vs. the Blues with a 1.89 goals-against average. Playing his fifth straight game since Chris Osgood went down with a hamstring strain, Vernon allowed only Brett Hull's 29th goal.

**Rangers 4, Flyers 2**  
Niklas Sundstrom had a goal and an assist and Mike Richter made 39 saves as visiting New York won.

Brian Leetch had two assists for the Rangers, who also got goals from Mark Messier, Alexander Karpovtsev and Sergei Nemchinov. Eric Lindros and Shjon Podelin scored for the Flyers, 2-3-2 in their last seven home games.

**NHL - Saturday's results:** Washington 3 Florida 1; NY Rangers 4, Philadelphia 2; Pittsburgh 4, Phoenix 1; San Jose 2, Colorado 1; Detroit 4, St. Louis 1; Boston 3, Tampa Bay 0; Montreal 4, New Jersey 4 (OT); Ottawa 2, Toronto 1; Calgary 3, Vancouver 0; Chicago 3, Los Angeles 2.

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## Lara finds his form with unbeaten 103

PERTH (Reuters) - Brian Lara finally broke through to score his first century in the series as West Indies built a formidable reply to Australia's first innings 243 in the fifth and final Test yesterday.

The West Indies vice-captain and number four batsman was rewarded for his patience with an unbeaten 103 that lifted his side out of trouble and into a position of strength in partnership with opener Robert Samuels.

At tea on the second day at the WACA Ground, West Indies was 216 for two after batting through the session without losing a wicket.

Samuels provided a perfect foil for Lara, moving to 58 not out at the break, his highest score in the Test series. Together they have added 173 runs for the third wicket, only the tourists' second century partnership in five Tests.

Lara has suffered a dismal series with the bat, a key factor in Australia taking an unassailable 3-1 lead.

The world record holder for the

highest score in Test cricket has appeared determined to attack the bowling whatever the circumstances in earlier Tests, a tactic that unfortunately failed to pay dividends.

In contrast, Lara played with great caution early on before gradually increasing the tempo of his innings after lunch, saving much of his aggression for left-arm wrist spinner Michael Bevan.

He reached his century with his 18th four in an innings lasting 196 minutes, during which he faced 158 balls.

South Africa's triangular perfection

South Africa maintained its 100 percent record in the triangular series with a crashing six wicket victory over India in Port Elizabeth yesterday.

They comfortably recorded their fifth victory with 4.5 overs to spare after tight bowling and holding restricted India to 179 for nine.

Man of the match was SA's Jacques Kallis.

## Ivanisevic wins Croatian Indoors

ZAGREB (AP) - It was a fight, but top-seeded Goran Ivanisevic finally wore out Greg Rusedski of Great Britain for a 7-6(7-4), 4-6, 7-6(8-6) victory yesterday at the \$400,000 Croatian Indoors men's tennis tournament.

The 122-minute final match was announced as a "battle of services. Ivanisevic, of Croatia, is known for his aces - he made 22 of them yesterday - while Rusedski's serves are among the fastest in professional tennis.







# Kessar testifies in Yisraelovich case

## Testimony supports accused

By RAINIE MARCUS

Former transportation minister Yisrael Kessar testified for the prosecution against Artur Yisraelovich in the Histadrut fraud affair in Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court yesterday.

Yisraelovich was charged last year on five counts of theft, fraud and breach of trust, arising from his management of Kessar's 1992 Labor Party Knesset primary campaign, while the latter was the Histadrut's secretary-general. Although Yisraelovich, who was the Histadrut treasurer at the time, was not officially responsible for Kessar's campaign, he was de facto in charge of finances and had complete control of all income and expenses.

Yisraelovich is charged with asking Uzi Fassa (who later turned State's Witness in the case) to forge invoices to charge different Histadrut departments instead of directly charging Kessar's campaign division. He is also accused of paying over NIS 500,000 of Histadrut funds to two private investigators to organize surveillance on Haim Ramon, who ran in



Yisrael Kessar

(Israel Sam)

the Histadrut elections in 1994 against Kessar. Kessar also was questioned in the affair, but was never charged.

Although he appeared as a prosecution witness yesterday, his testimony supported Yisraelovich's denial of all charges.

"This is my first time in a court room," an excited Kessar said. "I

have [full] faith in Yisraelovich."

During his testimony, Kessar said that he had asked Yisraelovich and Avigdor Kahalani (who was at the time the head of the Amal trade schools) to take care of his campaign's finances.

"Since I had not dealt with financial affairs for a long time, I trusted Artur as I would myself... and had never had a doubt that he would be involved in anything illegal, or what we would call improper management."

Kessar added that he was too busy to deal with gathering contributions for his campaign and left Yisraelovich in charge.

"I know that the accused is charged with offenses relating to my 1992 primaries," Kessar continued. "I cannot and will not believe any allegations, because I know him [Yisraelovich] for 27 years. But it was known that some of the party did not like him. I told the police that Artur would have to be stupid to do anything when he knew that certain people were out for his blood."

# Schach admitted to intensive care

By JUDY SIEGEL

Ninety-nine-year-old Rabbi Eliezer Menachem Schach was admitted yesterday to Ichilov Hospital's intensive care unit and attached to a respirator after complaining of breathing difficulties.

The spiritual leader of Lithuanian haredim had earlier been rushed from his Bnei Brak home to the nearby Mayanei Hayeshua Hospital, which received special equipment from Ichilov and Assaf Harofeh Hospital to treat him.

He had lost consciousness for a short time, according to MK Avraham Ravitz (United Torah Judaism), and had developed a high fever, causing his son, Prof. Ephraim Schach, to rush to his home.

Ichilov spokeswoman Aviva Shemer said the breathing problems were due to complications of pneumonia that the aged rabbi had suffered a few months ago. After treatment, Schach was in stable condition, Shemer said.

She could not say when he would be discharged.



Rabbi Schach

(Israel Sam)

When students at Bnei Brak's Ponevezh Yeshiva, which Schach headed until recently, heard of his illness, they began to recite Psalms.

Some took upon themselves a "word fast" (to refrain from non-holy speech).

# PM candidacy bill sparks protest

By LIAT COLLINS

The private member's bill under which only Jews may run for the position of prime minister has met a storm of protest by MKs from both coalition and opposition parties.

The amendment to the Basic Law, The Government proposed by MK Michael Kleiner (Gesher-Likud) also stipulates that candidates for the premiership must have lived in Israel continuously for seven years prior to the election, an idea which was criticized sharply by members of Yisrael Ba'Aliya.

MK Azmi Bishara (Hadash), who recently said he might consider running for prime minister one day, responded to Kleiner's bill, saying, "It reveals openly antidemocratic opinions. I will continue to present my candidacy as a real alternative to existing policies. One of my aims is to expose attitudes like the one expressed by Kleiner."

Labor faction chairman MK Ra'anana Cohen described the bill as "racist, evil and discriminatory against Arab citizens, who have equal rights." Cohen said he will recommend Labor MKs vote against such a bill if it comes up in the plenum.

Yisrael Ba'Aliya faction chairman Roman Bronfman said, "The stench of racism, stupidity and worthlessness rises from Kleiner's bill. It represents only the fringes of Israeli society."

Yossi Beilin, a candidate for the Labor Party leadership, said he would submit a bill today requiring a two-thirds majority of MKs to pass amendments to the Basic Law. The Government that relates to who may run for prime minister. "Kleiner's bill is racist, and racism is foreign to us. It is contrary to Judaism and to the Israeli Declaration of Independence," Beilin said.

Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon rejected the bill out of hand. "Israel is a Jewish state, but it is also democratic, and all citizens have the right to submit their candidacy for the premiership. The right to vote and be elected, without regard to religion, sex, race or length of time spent in Israel, is a basic right. A bill like this might also lead to obstacles being put in the way of various sectors of the population running for the Knesset," Tichon said.

National Religious Party Secretary-General Zvulun Orlev said he opposes the bill as "harmful, redundant and causing strife between Jewish and Arab citizens."

MK Michael Goldman (Labor), former deputy education minister, said, "This bill is a serious attack on the basic values of democracy."

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Samartha 9-14  
Tel Aviv 14-14  
Jerusalem 2-8  
Beer Sheva 9-14  
Dead Sea 8-17  
Eilat 8-17

Forecast: Rainy. Snow in Hermon, might snow in the Golan and Gali mountains.

**AROUND THE WORLD**

	LOW	HIGH	WIND	SEA
Buenos Aires	24	75	34	20
Caracas	28	86	18	10
Cairo	28	86	18	10
London	15	59	28	20
Madrid	15	59	28	20
Moscow	15	59	28	20
New York	15	59	28	20
Paris	15	59	28	20
Rome	15	59	28	20
Tel Aviv	15	59	28	20
Tokyo	15	59	28	20
Toronto	15	59	28	20
Vancouver	15	59	28	20
Zurich	15	59	28	20

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## NEWSLINE

with Prof. Claude Klein, a Hebrew University specialist in constitutional law.

MK Michael Kleiner (Gesher-Likud) is submitting a private member's bill which says that only a Jew can be prime minister and candidates for the premiership must have lived in Israel seven years continuously before nomination. Are there any other precedents for such legislation, other than the example of the US president, who has to be an American-born citizen?

When the Basic Law: The President was legislated some 30 years ago, the suggestion was made that only a Jew could be president of the State of Israel. The suggestion was rejected then and this suggestion should be rejected now on the principle that it is racist. The test must be whether we discriminate between different citizens.

In the case of the US, it relates only to the fact that the president must be American born. There is nothing racist in that.

Most of the opposition to Kleiner's bill is on the grounds of racism. The bill, however, is based on the Law of Return. Is this not saying that the Law of Return, too, is racist?

The Arabs undoubtedly do see it as racist, but we don't because we say this is a Jewish state and therefore give any Jew who wants to immigrate the right to do so. But at the same time, we say that anyone who has citizenship, whether he is a Jew or an Arab, has the same rights. The racist or discriminatory element of Kleiner's bill is that it differentiates between people who are already citizens and says that Arab citizens can't do certain things. This is, of course, unacceptable and scandalous.

Is there any chance that such a law could pass in the Knesset?

None whatsoever. Keep in mind that any amendment to the Basic Laws needs a majority of 61 MKs to pass.

The bill is, apart from anything else, a stupid one because in any case there is no chance an Arab is going to be elected prime minister.

Isn't the bill based on the fear that an Arab candidate will run for premier, knowing there is no chance of winning, just to force a second round of voting for the prime minister, during which the Arab sector will be able to make certain demands and play off the Jewish candidates in a form of political blackmailing?

Theoretically that could happen. But we cannot stop the Arabs from running and organizing themselves. Until now, the Arabs haven't voted for just one party. If anything is likely to make the Arabs get organized and do that, it will be this type of bill.

Do you also reject the clauses of the proposed bill which say that candidates must have lived here seven years continuously before the elections, ruling out new immigrants and returning Israelis?

I have no problem with returning Israelis being elected. A citizen is a citizen. If an Israeli citizen lives abroad for 20 years but wants to run for election here, I cannot stop him. I cannot differentiate between one citizen and another.

The question of immigrants is more difficult. It is worth considering the possibility that the right to vote not be given straight away but after a year or so and that the right to be elected to the Knesset and even more so the premiership come into effect only after a certain period of say three, four or even seven years.

Liav Collins